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Palestinian Affairs

'Not Sufficient Progress' Made at Baker Meeting

JN2009153391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said in Amman today that progress was made in her meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker this morning, but not sufficient progress. She added that she conveyed to Baker a message from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, concerning the positive steps and the three basic issues: the right to self-determination, occupied Jerusalem, and settlements.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi left Amman for Great Britain today. Last night, Faysal al-Husayni, member of the Palestinian delegation which met with Baker in Jerusalem on Monday, also left for London after briefing the Palestinian leadership in Tunisia on the results of his recent meeting with the U.S. secretary of state.

PLO Says U.S. Letter Does Not Meet Demands

JN1909162091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Nabil Sha'th has said that the U.S. letter of assurances to the Palestinians does not meet their demands, despite some progress. He said the Palestinian demands are very clear: They are based on a halt to settlement building before the negotiations begin, a clear U.S. promise that these negotiations are aimed at exchanging land for peace, a clear affirmation of the principles of self-determination, and allowing Palestinians from East Jerusalem to participate in the peace process.

For his part, PLO Information Department head Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the PLO regards the U.S. letter of assurances as negative and lacking in any practical guarantee. He added that the PLO received and studied the letter that James Baker recently handed to a delegation of Palestinian figures from the occupied territories, comprised of Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariya al-Agha.

Further on Reaction to Letter

JN1909141591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] King Husayn received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker immediately after his arrival in Amman today on his seventh tour of the Middle East. Baker is expected to hand the Jordanian officials a letter of intent that emphasizes the principles of peace as announced by President Bush in March concerning the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. The letter will also include U.S. denunciation of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territory.

Within this context, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur told our radio that the United States considers the Israeli settlements to be an obstacle to peace, both in principle and in timing, and that it would be a grave impediment if settlement building were to coincide with the launching of the peace process.

On another level, a Palestinian source told our radio that Baker proposed to Palestinian delegation members Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi that he meet with them again in Amman after they completed their consultations on the letter of intent, which Baker handed to the Palestinian delegation when he met with the group in Jerusalem last Monday. The source said the Palestinian delegation will not come to Amman to meet with Baker because the Palestinian leadership considered the U.S. document insufficient, since it did not include reference to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas met with Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al- Nusur and informed them of the PLO's position regarding the U.S. memorandum of understanding given to the Palestinian delegation. Baker is expected to return to Damascus tomorrow on another visit to the Syrian capital to receive Syria's response to the U.S. letter of assurances, which he handed to Syrian officials yesterday.

Baker Interlocuters' Trip to Tunis Denied

LD1909180891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] A Palestinian official spokesman denied news being disseminated by some news agencies to the effect that the members of the Palestinian group which is entrusted with meeting with the American secretary of state are on their way to Tunis to report to the Palestinian leadership. The spokesman said that this piece of news is absolutely unfounded.

Abu-al-'Izz Sees No Development in U.S. Stance

LD1909223691 Algiers APS in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Algiers, 19 Sep (APS)—Ibrahim Abu-al-'Izz, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Algeria, held a news conference at the Palestinian Embassy headquarters yesterday during which he defined "the adherence of the PLO and all the Palestinians to their basic demands, which are represented by their right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital."

Concerning the preparations for the Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting which will convene on 23 September in Algiers, Abu-al-'Izz emphasized that the "contacts between the PLO and the different Palestinian factions are still in progress." He said that "with the exception of two movements, i.e. the Palestinian al-Sa'iqah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine General-Command, most of the factions have expressed their readiness to take part in the Council." He pointed out that "contacts are still in progress with them," expressing his hope in this context that all Palestinian political organizations will participate in the National Council.

Replying to a question about the causes of the reservations which some Palestinian factions have expressed about participation in the Council, the Palestinian ambassador said that "there are reasons, some of which are political and others organizational," pointing out that some of these factions, headed by the "Islamic Hamas movement," reject all political solutions on the table, including the peace conference, and that "the only solution, in their view, is the escalation of armed struggle by means of consolidating the intifadah." As for the organizational or technical reasons, Abu-al-'Izz said that "the factions object to the number of representatives which the PLO has determined for them in the National Council" and "they demand a larger number than that."

On the other hand, the Palestinian ambassador affirmed that "the PNC members living in the occupied territories will not take part in the Council's proceedings" because of security reasons and because the Israeli authorities denied them exit visas from the occupied territories. However, he said that their opinions have previously been delivered, and they will be discussed in the Council.

Abu-al-'Izz said that what the Western media have circulated about the U.S. refusal to provide loan guarantees requested by Israel is "merely a scenario, a new political trick" concocted by America to avoid embarrassment with some Arab parties." He said that "everyone knows well that Israel is no more than an American base which will cease to operate if American aid for it comes to an end." Concerning the peace conference for the Middle East that is intended to be held in October, the Palestinian ambassador said that "no positive developments have taken place in the American position, which is characterized by ambiguity and procrastination." In this respect, he said: "If they really want peace, all preconditions must be dropped."

'Arafat's Talks With USSR's Belonogov Detailed

JN1909174591 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, discussed the Middle East peace process as well as the efforts currently under way to convene a peace conference in October during his meeting with USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov. The deputy foreign minister arrived in Tunis earlier in the day.

During the meeting, Brother Abu-'Ammar reviewed the Palestinian position on this process, underscoring the great flexibility and positive spirit the Palestinian people and their leadership, the PLO, demonstrated to advance the peace process in the Middle East. He also reviewed the Zionist position and policies which reject Palestinian national rights, especially the right to self-determination, and also with regard to the Jerusalem issue. He also explained Israeli policies in the occupied territories, particularly with regard to settlement building and Jewish immigration.

For his part, the Soviet official reiterated the USSR's stand, its support for Palestinian national rights, and its backing for the Palestinian position espoused by the PLO.

Further on Talks

LD1909192891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Brother President Leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov and his accompanying delegation at midday yesterday, during which they made a deep examination and comprehensive review of the peace process in the region as well as efforts aiming at convening a peace conference.

Regarding the outcome of the talks and the Soviet Union's role in the peace process, the brother president leader said: It is known that the Soviet Union is the other chairman of the peace conference that is expected to be held on the Middle East. Therefore, it ought to shoulder political, diplomatic, and moral responsibilities at the highest level between us and our friends in Moscow. There is a permanent Palestinian-Soviet Committee to coordinate matters concerning the peace conference. Our meeting is part of the Palestinian-Soviet consultation to push the peace process forward and make a success of the peace conference that was announced by Presidents Gorbachev and Bush, which we hope will be held as soon as possible to guarantee everyone's rights, security, and future.

We, in this respect, are not demanding the impossible. We are demanding the implementation of the UN resolutions. Moreover, we are demanding the implementation of what President Bush announced in his initiative of 6 March 1991, when he said: land for peace, Resolutions 242 and 338, Israeli withdrawal, and the Palestinian people's legitimate and national rights.

Answering a question on the Palestinian stance toward the resumption of Israeli-Soviet diplomatic relations and whether such a topic was examined during his talks with Belonogov, the brother president said: We did not deal with such a topic. We are hoping, however, for reciprocity: As soon as Soviet-Israeli relations are established, there should be PLO-led Palestinian-American relations.

Qaddumi, UK Ambassador Discuss Peace Process

LD1909194491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, today received the

British ambassador to Tunis. Their meeting dealt with political developments and current international efforts concerning the peace process, as well as the firm Palestinian stance and efforts aimed at achieving peace based on an Israeli withdrawal and a guarantee of the Palestinian people's rights.

They also examined the current Israeli aggressive policies to continue with the occupation and the settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Sources Cite Changes in PLO Executive Committee

NC2009113091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Tunis, 20 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian sources stated that seven members of the PLO Executive Committee may be substituted during the forthcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council due to be held in Algiers on Monday. The seven members are: Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Muhammad Milhim; Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu-al-'Abbas; 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahia; Ilya Khuri; Mahmud Darwish; and Juwayd al- Ghusn.

Informed sources believe that the departure of Abu-al-'Abbas, who had earlier announced that he would not nominate himself for membership in the new Executive Committee, will pave the way for resuming the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue which was suspended last June in the wake of the attack on the Tel Aviv coast. The attack was claimed by a group affiliated with the Abu-al-'Abbas-led front.

The PLO Executive Committee includes 14 members in addition to its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat.

Edward Said, Abu-Lughod Resignations Confirmed

LD1909192591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has announced that two distinguished members, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod and Edward Said, have resigned from the PNC. Al-Sa'ih told AFP yesterday that Abu-Lughod referred in his letter of resignation to justifiable personal reasons that were apolitical. Said stated, however, that he had decided to resign for health reasons and to open the way for a new generation. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Explain Resignations

JN2009142891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Sep 91 pp 16, 20

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] Palestinian parliamentary sources disclosed to AL-RA'Y that 12 representatives of the Palestinian community in the United States, Europe, and the Gulf states resigned. They include Hasib al-Sabbagh, a prominent Palestinian figure in Greece; Hani Qaddumi, a Palestinian businessman; 'Abd-al-Muhsin Qattan, a prominent businessman in Kuwait; and Professor Edward Said and Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, two teachers at U.S. universities, who announced their resignation the day before yesterday.

Palestinian parliamentary sources say that the resignations are a kind of protest at the size of representation of the Palestinian community in the United States, Europe, and the Gulf. Others attribute the resignations to U.S. pressures on Palestine National Council [PNC] members, after having failed to delay its meeting collectively through a letter to the PLO delivered by an Arab state.

Meanwhile, official Palestinian sources told AL-RA'Y that the political report, to be presented by the Executive Committee to the PNC next Monday, has not yet been finalized. A Palestinian official attributed this delay to the Palestinian leadership's eagerness to draft a report that would end any dispute that might arise during the discussions to approve it at the forthcoming PNC meeting.

It seems, however, that a dispute has already arisen on the representation of factions because the strengthened representation of the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine whetted the appetite of other factions that enjoy equal weight in the Palestinian arena, like the Palestinian Communist Party, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, and others.

Palestinian parliamentary sources asserted that discussions during the leadership meetings have not yet reached an agreement on the form of the next Executive Committee and the Central Council, although there is a partial consensus on making the number of the Executive Committee members 18 instead of 15. There are also some people who will undoubtedly leave the Executive Committee. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Refuses To Attend PNC Session

JN1909184691 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] In response to an invitation to attend a Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Algiers, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine issued a statement saying that the movement refuses to attend a PNC session meant to make further concessions. The movement affirmed that what concerns it first and foremost is the need to rehabilitate the resistant Palestinian face within the PLO and to view it as a framework for the cultural struggle against the Zionist onslaught.

The movement called for nonrecognition of the Zionist entity and its so-called legitimate existence in any part of Palestine. It also called for allowing the course of armed struggle to take root, as it is the only way to liberate Palestine. It asserted that through this, the strength, credibility, and legitimacy of the PLO, in its capacity as

a unifying political framework for the Palestinian people's forces, can be demonstrated. Through a mobilization of the nation and its resources and through a demonstration of its unity, the nation can rebuild a balance of power in favor of our just cause, the movement added.

In its statement, the Islamic Jihad Movement indicated that the gravest danger to our people and their intifadah at this phase is that of tearing apart the program and orientations of our struggle and jihad. Furthermore, the movement condemned the bargaining being conducted by some Palestinian forces with the Americans concerning our Palestinian Arab people's inalienable rights, at a time when it is demanding unity within the PLO framework to help firmly confront the U.S. offensive.

PNSF Issues Statement on Upcoming PNC Session

JN1909111691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Sep 91 p 6

[The following item appears in a box advertisement under the title "Statement"]

[Text] The Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] issued the following statement:

The PNSF studied the latest developments in the Palestinian arena concerning the Palestine National Council in light of the information made available by certain officials of the PLO leadership and what has been reported by the media in this regard. Within that context, the PNSF explains and stresses the following:

1. The PNSF proposed on 8 April 1991 its initiative for a comprehensive dialogue on the basis of the Palestinian National Charter and the resolutions of national unanimity with the aim of achieving comprehensive Palestinian unity within the framework of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and in order to protect the Palestine question and the right of its people from liquidation. Contacts were made between the PNSF and certain officials from the PLO leadership. Agreement was reached to start a comprehensive dialogue in Sanaa following these contacts. The PNSF proposed that the dialogue should include all Palestinian powers and factions and proposed early September 1991 as a date. However, it received no answer to its proposal.

2. A proposal was made for a dialogue in Tripoli between the PNSF and the PLO factions. The PNSF officially accepted the proposal, provided that the dialogue cover the formation of the seventh Palestine National Council [PNC] and the date for convening its session, as well as political issues. No official response from the PLO leadership to this proposal was received either.

3. The PNSF is sorry that the PNC will convene in the absence of a large number of Palestinian factions and before holding the dialogue as proposed by the PNSF, and at this circumstance which dictates that ranks should be closed in genuine national unity to face the dangers against the Palestine question and the Palestinian people and their intifadah.

The PNSF, while presenting these facts, stresses its adherence to the initiative it proposed on 8 April 1991 for comprehensive national unity. It will continue to adhere to that initiative out of concern for the national interest, the PLO, and the Palestine question and the heroic intifadah in Palestine. Its initiative will serve as the basis for any position it takes on all Palestinian, Arab, and international developments.

[Signed] The PNSF

[Dated] 17 September 1991

Algeria

Italian Embassy Statement on Airline Issue

LD1909225691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The Italian Embassy in Algiers has categorically denied, in a communique which was handed to APS, the news reported by AFP, quoting an Italian diplomatic source in Algiers, that the Algerian authorities had refused to allow the Alitalia D-9 aircraft to land in Algiers.

The communique added that the embassy has vehemently protested over such a biased behavior, which contravenes the ethics of the profession, aiming at shaking Algerian-Italian relations and deliberately feigning ignorance of the truth.

The statement went on to assert that the Italian Embassy reserves the right to take any measure which it deems necessary to protest over such behavior to concerned bodies.

Egypt

Mubarak To Meet Gorbachev, Yeltsin in Moscow

NC2009052791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2111 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that President Husni Mubarak will arrive in Moscow on 27 September for a working visit to the Soviet Union during which he will meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

In its Friday issue, the paper says that several meetings have been held at the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow and were attended by the heads of the cultural, commercial, media, and industrial bureaus to discuss the necessary preparations for the Egyptian-Soviet summit. The paper expects President Mubarak's visit to Moscow to be highly intensive and to last probably one day.

Mubarak Interviewed on Peace Process, Arab Ties

NC1909052891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that Egypt has a firm view of Gulf security. He said that Egypt believes that this security stems from the Gulf countries themselves, and that no foreign country should impose anything on them because they are independent states and are members of the Arab League and the United Nations, which should be respected.

In a comprehensive statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, to be published on 19 September, President Mubarak said that the Gulf countries themselves should decide their security needs, and we must help them in light of their decision and as part of the joint Arab umbrella. He noted that the Damascus Declaration does not call for sending forces to the Gulf countries without good reason, but added that if any Gulf country needs help, Egypt will respond without delay.

In his statement to the paper's chief editor Dr. Muhammad al-Rumayhi, President Mubarak stressed that all the parties concerned are now preparing for the peace conference, which we hope will actually convene. There is much optimism that it will convene, and it will be a big step when the parties are sitting at the negotiating table and discussing all the issues. He stressed the need for all parties to realize that there must be concessions, but they must not infringe on sovereignty.

Answering a question about Egypt's view on whether we can emerge from the current situation and whether there are reliable foundations for healing the Arab rift in the future, President Mubarak said that it would be good if we want to (?forget) for the sake of the future, but the attitude will not be that of letting bygones be bygones. He said: We must sit down and reach an understanding about what has happened and examine the possibility of its happening again. Every party that made a mistake must admit the mistake, he said, adding: "We must not fool one another."

He said that we must not behave as certain countries did when the coup against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev occurred. He explained that these countries congratulated the coupists, and then when the coup failed, they said that no one had been authorized to speak on their behalf. Then they congratulated Gorbachev. I do not like a two-faced policy, he said. We should sit down and examine what has happened and make a complete assessment of the situation, so we can see the mistakes and how such things came to pass and therefore learn our lesson. He said: However, if we let bygones be bygones, close the file with all its disasters and problems unexamined, and let those who made mistakes emerge as heroes and toy with the Arab situation, it would mean that the possibility of them conspiring once again would be very real.

Responding to another question about the efforts to remove the impediments to Arab investment in Egypt, President Mubarak said that anyone who mentions hindrances actually means procrastination. He stressed that we have removed many hindrances, but certain people have been using pretexts and making demands that they would not be able to make in other countries. Certain people have also claimed that there is bureaucracy in Egypt. But what kind of bureaucracy? We give plots of land to anyone who wants to buy newly reclaimed land.

President Mubarak pointed out that Israel must respond to the peace efforts and stressed that peace is far more important than land. In any case, territory cannot ensure security in the age of missiles and other weapons. We must cultivate this understanding of peace, because,

when it is achieved, all the parties involved will greatly benefit from it—including Israel, which will be the party that will gain the most.

UAE President Shaykh Zayid Continues Visit

Discusses Gulf Security, Iran

NC1709101591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0724 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 17 Sep (MENA)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has expressed his belief that the Arab world cannot do without Egypt, nor can Egypt do without the Arab world.

He said no one can distance or isolate any Arab country from Egypt because we are all in the same boat, adding that the Arab nation is strong with Egypt as Egypt is strong with the Arab nation.

In his meeting with chief editors of Egyptian media last night, Shaykh Zayid recalled that when a difference of opinion did exist with Egypt, he always believed in backing Egypt, its people, and leadership, and in the need for Egypt to restore its standing at the head of the Arab world. [passage omitted]

He dismissed the possibility of security arrangements in the Gulf region being made with Iran to the exclusion of Egypt, saying that Iran is a Muslim neighbor country and that a friend must help a friend. He added that Iran must help its neighbors just as its neighbors must assist her. Shaykh Zayid pointed out that Egypt is one of the veteran countries in the Arab League and that Iran should realize Egypt's influence in the Arab world, saying that it is the duty of the Gulf states to mediate between Egypt and Iran. [passage omitted]

The UAE president also discussed the problems of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [BCCI], saying: What happened was a banking affair which those concerned at the bank should explain. These matters are not yet clear to me because the people concerned are in the process of settling and clarifying them. Only after that will a final result be submitted to us. He said that none of the bank's managers in the UAE has been arrested but they have been remanded in custody pending investigation.

Departs for Damascus

NC1709103491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 17 Sep (MENA)—Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, left Alexandria for Damascus this morning, ending a five-day visit to Egypt, three of which he spent in Alexandria. [passage omitted]

Minister Delivers Message to al-Qadhdhafi

NC1909182491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1739 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo this evening from the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He had left for the Libyan Jamahiriyah this morning, taking with him a message from President Husni Mubarak for brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, who received Minister al-Sharif at his Sabha residence in the south of Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Following the meeting, Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak's message comes as part of the two leaders' constant consultations on Arab issues and other issues of mutual concern, particularly Pan-Arab security.

The information minister added that President Mubarak's message followed the telephone conversation with brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi yesterday evening. He said that the message also dealt with a number of topics concerning relations between the two fraternal countries.

'Amr Musa Meets European Parliament Delegation

NC1809135291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with the delegation currently visiting Cairo that is representing the socialist parties within the European Parliament and is led by Claude Cheysson.

Cheysson said that the EC supports the current efforts to move the peace process forward and arrange for the Middle East peace conference. Cheysson said that Minister Musa briefed the delegation on the talks held between Egyptian officials and the U.S. secretary of state concerning the peace efforts. Cheysson said that it is important for Egypt and the EC to cooperate in various fields and added that the EC supports the recent decision by U.S. President George Bush concerning the loan guarantees requested by Israel to finance settlement building.

Mubarak Receives Delegation

NC1709124591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak received Claude Cheysson, leader of the European Parliament's socialist group, and his accompanying delegation. Cheysson and his delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday.

Mubarak Receives Tanzanian Foreign Minister

NC1709141891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon received Tanzanian Foreign Minister Ahmad Hasan Diria, who is currently

visiting Cairo. Present at the meeting were Foreign Minister 'Umar Musa and the Tanzanian ambassador in Cairo.

The Tanzanian foreign minister said after the meeting that his talks with President Mubarak dealt with the relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic field. The talks also touched on the international situation, he added. Minister Diria said that President Mubarak has agreed to visit Tanzania, noting that the visit is expected to take place some time next year.

In another statement following his talks with Foreign Minister 'Umar Musa, the Tanzanian foreign minister reiterated his country's support for Egypt's efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. He said the talks dealt with several African issues, particularly the situation in the African Horn and South Africa. He said that Egypt is sending experts to Tanzania to help it implement its development projects.

Country Reportedly Exporting Goods to Iraq

NC1709114791 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 16 Sep 91 p 13

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Egypt is daily exporting goods valued at $2 million to Iraq via the port of al-'Aqabah which is linked to the Egyptian sea port of Nuwaybi' by a maritime line. Egyptian products are transported to Baghdad from al-'Aqabah.

In addition, large quantities of serum have been collected in Egypt to be dispatched to Iraqi children living under appalling health conditions in view of the continued U.S. blockade against this Arab country.

Libya

U.S.-Kuwaiti Security Agreement Viewed

LD1909211291 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait today expressed its adherence to the principles and objectives of the Arab League charter and to the joint defense and economic agreements among Arab countries. This came in a statement issued today in Cairo following the amir of Kuwait's visit to Egypt and his talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The statement mentioned the military agreement signed recently by the Kuwaiti Government with the United States. The statement said that this did not violate Kuwait's sovereignty, that it was merely a cooperation within a circumstantial framework, and that it was within the framework of the kind of cooperation acknowledged by sovereign states.

The Arab affairs editor of JANA commented on the content of the statement, saying: Despite this, the Jamahiriyah's stance is against the agreement because it is a grave violation of the Arab nation's security. It is also against any foreign presence in Arab territories because it constitutes a new colonialism. The JANA Arab affairs editor added: We appreciate the difficult circumstances experienced by Kuwait and the difficult circumstances that have led to the collapse of Arab confidence. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait last year caused a series of tragedies and opened the door to colonialism to destroy Iraq and the Arabs.

The editor went on to say: The Great Jamahiriyah accepts Kuwait's undertakings that were stated in Egypt, and looks forward to the day when these bad conditions end and when Kuwait will revoke these unsuspicious ties. The editor stressed that the solution to these issues lies in the establishment of Arab unity, adherence to Arab conventions, and the implementation of the joint Arab defense treaty and the Arab economic unity agreement. The JANA Arab affairs editor stressed that there is now a pressing need to implement the Arab federation plan which was submitted by the brother leader of the revolution to Arab presidents and kings within the framework of amendments to the Arab League Charter. The editor added that the Great Jamahiriyah is confident this is the natural and most ideal solution to resolve all the problems from which the Arab nation is suffering.

Mauritania

SDAR Prime Minister Comments on Peace Process

LD1509043591 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Sep 91

[Text] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, president and CMSN [Military Committee for National Salvation] chairman, this morning received SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] Prime Minister Mahfoud Ali Beida. The meeting was attended by the permanent secretary of the CMSN, (Mohamed Lemine Ould Diyani).

After the meeting the SDAR official answered questions from radio correspondent Baba Ould Sidi Abdallah.

[Beida] In fact, I was honored by meeting his excellency the president. I conveyed to him a message from SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz. The message is in line with the continuous consultation between the two countries, in particular now that the UN peace plan and the 6 September cease-fire is being implemented. This is meaningful not only to the Sahrawi people, but to the peoples of the area and in particular Mauritania, which is a country that is concerned with what is happening in the Sahara.

I also briefed him on the latest developments with regard to the deployment of the MINURSO [UN mission for

the referendum of the Sahara] and the coming steps concerning the later stages of the peace plan.

[Abdallah] How do you evaluate the Mauritanian position in the light of the recent Foreign Ministry statement?

[Beida] In actual fact, the Mauritanian position was always ahead and always supported pushing the wheel of peace forward. The recent stand was actually a vindication of this view, and it is the cornerstone of the new stage whose general outline is peace and allowing the UN plan to succeed. Mauritania constantly expressed this view in recent years, during which time the United Nations made its efforts to settle this existing problem between the Moroccan Kingdom and the SDAR.

[Abdallah] Can we learn how far the referendum measures in Sahara have gone?

[Beida] The measures now are still in the stage of deploying the MINURSO across the fixed 10 points. The deployments will be completed after a very few days. The second question is the committee on defining identity. The committee set off from New York on Thursday. On this basis it will directly contact the two sides, the Saharawi notables, and also the voters in order to prepare the lists and convey the standards that the committee had agreed upon with regard to the voters. There is no doubt that in the middle of this activity there will be a move by the special representative or his deputy concerning matters which concern the area and in particular matters which concern the two sides. These are the coming steps. No doubt, you know that there is a timetable and it contains other matters that have not come into force, such as exchanging prisoners, the centers of the forces, the repatriation of the refugees, etc. These are all points which remain outstanding and will be implemented in the future. Of course, this will take place after the move that the special representative or his deputy makes.

Political Party Established; Legalization Sought

AB1709210591 Paris AFP in French 0951 GMT 16 Sep 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 16 Sep (AFP)—A new political party, the Mauritanian Renewal Party (PMR), has been set up in Mauritania. Yesterday a reliable source said the party presented an application for legalization to the interior minister.

The same source indicated that this party, the third since the restoration of multiparty politics in Mauritania in July, is led by Moulay El Hassan Ould Jeyid, engineer and former mayor of the mining town of Zouerate (north of the country).

The other political parties already recognized are the Rally for Democracy and Unity of Ahmed Sidi Baba and the Democratic and Social Republican Party formed by the head of state, Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

Tunisia

Details of Alitalia Hijacking Reported

AU1909154791 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Rome, Sep. 19 (AFP)—An unidentified armed man on Thursday hijacked an Alitalia DC-9 carrying 130 passengers and a crew of seven during a flight from Rome to Tunis, air traffic controllers here said. The plane landed in the Tunisian capital shortly after 5:00 p.m. local time (1500 GMT), the controllers here said. Sources close to control tower staff in Malta confirmed the report. No immediate details were available from Tunis.

The hijacker, armed with a pistol, demanded that the plane fly to Algiers, but airport authorities in the Algerian capital refused it permission to land, traffic controllers in Rome said. News of the hijack was given to the Rome control tower by the aircraft's captain, Nunzio Castelli, who issued a coded international alert signal during the flight over the Mediterranean Sea.

On being denied permission to land in Algiers, Castelli suggested to the hijacker, whose identity and nationality is not known, that the plane land instead in Palermo, the Sicilian capital. But the suggestion was not accepted.

The McDonnell-Douglas twin-engined plane, flight number AZ864, took off from Rome's Fiumicino international airport at 2:00 p.m. (1200 GMT), 30 minutes behind schedule, and had initially been due to land in Tunis at 3:15 p.m. local time (1515 GMT).

The last hijacking of a plane belonging to the Italian national carrier occurred in September 1982 when a Boeing 727 on a flight between Rome and Algiers was forced to land in Catane, Sicily, by a Soviet national.

Incident Over; No Bloodshed

AU1909163891 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1629 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The hijacking of a plane of the Italian Alitalia airline to Tunis ended without bloodshed today. All 130 persons aboard left the plane unharmed.

A man armed with a gun hijacked the plane of the McDonnell-Douglas MD-80 type shortly after take-off from Rome. Landing in Algiers was reportedly denied. Subsequently the plane landed in Tunis, as envisaged in the flight plan. The hijacker reportedly is a Tunisian. The PLO representative to Italy, who was on his way to a PLO meeting in Tunis, was also aboard.

Interior Minister Comments

LD1909215291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Following the hijacking of the Italian airliner on a flight from Rome to Tunis which was carried out this

afternoon by Tunisian national Hedi Hassan Bouchenak, born 1965, Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel made the following statement:

[Begin Kallel recording] It was brought to our attention at 1430 this afternoon by the control tower that an Italian airliner on a flight from Rome to Tunis had been hijacked by a Tunisian hijacker who used a hostess as a hostage in the cockpit and threatened to blow up the plane with explosives he had in a handbag if his demand for landing at Tunis Carthage international airport for refuelling and then continuing the flight to Algeria was not met. We took the initiative of preparing a plan until the arrival of our special forces. The plan was to first secure the safety of the 130 passengers and the 7 airliner crew members; second, to secure the safety of the plane; and third to arrest the hijackers [plural as heard]. The hijacker was surprised in the cockpit after he was distracted during negotiations with him. It is worth noting that all the passengers and crew members left the plane in good health and unharmed. We congratulate them and their families on that, and we also address our thanks to the members of our special forces for the high competence, self-control, and bravery they demonstrated under the circumstances. We also thank all the members of the control tower and officials of the airport who contributed to the success of the operation.[end recording]

Later, the questioning began of the hijacker and a colleague of his, who was on board the same plane and who was also arrested.

Joint Meeting with Libya Opens in La Casba

LD1009225991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the seventh session of the higher Tunisian-Libyan joint committee started this evening in La Casba under the chairmanship of Mr. Hamed Karoui, the prime minister, and Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, and in the presence of the members of the delegations of the two countries.

The agenda of the session includes several issues related to the various facets of Tunisian-Libyan cooperation, the assessment of what has been achieved on the path of integration between the two countries, and the determining of the prospects of future joint action. [passage omitted]

We point out in conclusion that three joint committees have been formed during this opening session. These are the internal affairs committee, the economic committee, and the banking affairs committee.

Committee Minutes Signed

LD1409025491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the seventh session of the Tunisian-Libyan Higher Follow-Up Committee ended yesterday in Tunis with the signature of the minutes by Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud.

On their part, Interior Minister 'Abdallah Kallel and Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, signed the minutes of the Committee for Security Affairs. Mr. Sadok Rabah, minister of national economy, and 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economic Planning, signed the minutes of the Economy Committee; while the minutes of the Committee for Finance and Banks were signed by Mohamed El-Beji Hamda, governor of the Tunisian Central Bank, and Salim al-Juwayli, deputy governor of the Libyan Central Bank.

The minutes of the concluded session in particular provided for the reformation of the sectoral committees to review the work of the previous committees and resume its mission regarding what can be unified on issues, policies, legislation, and structures; remove the obstacles facing this work; propose solutions; and submit the results of its work to the Higher Follow-Up Committee.

It was also decided to support the executive committee in terms of material and human resources through expert elements in economy, finance, and law. [passage omitted]

Movement Said Planning October Attacks

PM1809113491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Tunisian Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Ennahda' Planned Terrorist Operations During Trial of Attempted Coup Leaders"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An informed Tunisian source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that preliminary investigations and inquiries conducted by the security organs after the disovery of a number of arms caches in Tunis, Sukrah, and Susah have revealed that the outlawed Ennahda [renaissance] Movement planned to use these arms in October in attacks on strategic locations in order to confuse the regime and to try to topple it by exploiting the trial of the military and civilian fundamentalist leaders implicated in the attempt to overthrow the regime in Tunisia.

It was said that the military court in Tunisia would begin to look into the case at the end of this month or the beginning of next month.

According to the source, the discovery of these caches could lead to the postponement of the trial.

According to the information gathered by Tunisian security organs during the interrogation of a number of detainees, including the official in charge of the secret organization of the Ennahda Movement in Bin 'Arus Governorate, it seems that the Ennahda Movement has

not abandoned its coup plan despite its exposure and the arrest of its most notable leaders, both military and civilian. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Morocco Reportedly Planning New 'Green March'

LD1909205791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Western Sahara—According to a communique of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], the signal for the beginning of a new Green March has been announced by the Moroccan interior minister. More than 170,000 people are expected to march into the occupied Sahrawi towns of Smara, Layoun, Dakhla, and Boudjdour. According to the Polisario, the objective of the operation is to force the United Nations to accept the final results of the referendum in favor of Morocco.

Morocco Said Obstructing UN, Press Contacts

LD1709165891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] The Polisario Front today accused the Moroccan Government of carrying out practices similar to a state of siege in order to distance Saharan citizens from the UN officials and the press.

Moroccan Air Force Said Violating Cease-Fire

LD1709212691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Morocco has violated the cease-fire in the Western Sahara, according to the Saharans. The Moroccan Air Force has overflown the region of Agounit in the south of the Western Sahara. This was stated by a communique of the Saharan Ministry of Information. The communique considers that this overflight operation represents a serious risk to the cease-fire and to the climate of calm and tranquillity that should be prevailing.

A cease-fire entered into force between the Polisario Front and Morocco on 6 September in accordance with the UN peace plan.

UN Military Delegation's Activities Reported

LD1309212991 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 12 Sep 91

[Text] Laayoun, Sep 12 (MAP)—A group of top-ranking officers of the UN Mission for the Referendum of the Sahara (MINURSO) led by Gen. Armand Roy left here late Wednesday morning heading for the town of Smara. Gen. Armand Roy had arrived earlier in Laayoun Wednesday morning coming from Tindouf following a visit he had made to this location on Tuesday, heading a party comprising MINURSO highly-ranking officers.

The party led by the Canadian general is made of Mrs. Helena Howard, Col. Sawshok (Canada), Col. Zapata (USA), Commander Kehler (Switzerland), and Lt-Col. Conde Sandussi (Guinea). The latter officer is said to have been assigned to one of the supervision centers within the framework of MINURSO military observers' mission. Meanwhile, a MINURSO medical team left Hassan I airport in Laayoun Wednesday morning, heading for Las Palmas to look into matters relating to the shipment of a certain quantity of medical products destined for MINURSO members.

Relatedly, another group of MINURSO observers arrives in Laayoun Wednesday afternoon, bringing to more than 200 the total number of MINURSO civil and military observers in the Sahara. The new group is made of 29 military observers from the Soviet Union, led by Col. Aleksandr Constantinov.

Bahrain

Foreign Ministry Denies Patrol Boat Incidents

JN2009075891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Manama, 19 Sep (WAKH)—Commenting on a statement issued by the Qatari Foreign Ministry today, Thursday, 19 September 1991, alleging that a Bahraini coastal patrol boat had attacked a Qatari coastal patrol boat, a responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry has stated that the Qatari Foreign Ministry statement is unfounded. The source said that the two incidents referred to by the statement on 14 and 16 September are not true, as Bahraini gunboats did not open fire as claimed in the Qatari statement.

The State of Bahrain regrets the State of Qatar's allegations that would mar the close relations between brothers under the current circumstances in the Gulf region. The State of Bahrain declares its faith in the spirit of brotherhood and good neighborliness. It stresses commitment to the good offices of Saudi Arabia led by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him. This was expressed in the statement issued on 22 August 1991 which proposed a meeting of the tripartite committee in order to reach a common formula to resolve the dispute by friendly means to the satisfaction of both parties. The statement also stressed Bahrain's commitment to the agreed upon in the course of the noble mediation undertaken by the custodian of the two holy mosques. One of these was a joint request by the two states to the International Court of Justice for consideration of their disputes.

Saudi Arabia

Minister Comments on Talks With UK's Major

PM1909151291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Sep 91 pp 1, 4

[Zaki Shihab report: "After Talks With Major, Sa'ud al-Faysal Says: Baghdad Procrastinating on Question of Demarcation of Borders With Kuwait"]

[Excerpt] London—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said yesterday that Iraq was maneuvering and procrastinating on implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, especially those relating to the release of Kuwaiti and other POW's, and that it is also procrastinating on negotiations on the demarcation of the Kuwait-Iraq borders and weapons of mass destruction.

In a statement made immediately after his 45-minute meeting with British Prime Minister John Major at noon yesterday, the Saudi foreign minister said that the international insistence on the implementation of these resolutions cannot be ignored. He added that the Iraqi Government would be making a mistake if it believed that the international resolve has weakened.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said he hoped the necessary measures would be taken to ensure implementation of the UN resolutions.

He also said that he conveyed a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to British Prime Minister John Major expressing his appreciation of Britain's stance in the Gulf war and its support for right and justice, as well as gratitude for the British position on the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the two countries' views were identical on all topics.

He added that the position of the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Iraq was that all UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented to ensure that what happened in August last year would not be repeated.

The Saudi foreign minister reaffirmed his support for the current efforts to convene an international conference on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said there was common concern regarding the Israeli settlements and immigration to the occupied Arab territories. These two matters, he said, are the main obstacles to the peace efforts. He expressed the hope that the international position would lead to such a conference.

He added: Adequate preparations must be made for the conference, especially efforts to stop the building of settlements. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Receives Gorbachev's Letter on Ties, Peace

JN1909131891 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on bilateral relations, new developments in the region, and the ongoing efforts to achieve peace in the region. The Soviet charge d'affaires in Sanaa conveyed the message to the president during a meeting today.

New Cabinet Meets 19 Sep; To Adopt 'Guideline'

JN1909155691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1508 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—The Council of Ministers held a regular session today chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi.

At the outset, the prime minister said he was pleased to be in charge of the Council of Ministers. He cited President Saddam Husayn's assertion that "the present is difficult, but the future will be bright. Men of genuine mettle are not chosen at easy times, but during difficult circumstances. We believe that you are the kind of men who will put yourselves and your resources at the disposal of the people."

The prime minister added that Iraq will continue to make inexhaustible sacrifices, and that the high-flying banner of "God is great" will be embraced by faithful, honest men in a way that makes their friends feel happy and their enemies, who are waylaying Iraq and its giant achievements, feel miserable.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi spoke about the difficult circumstances Iraq has been through, the steadfastness of its great people, and how they repulsed aggression in the mother of battles as well as their endurance of the unjust economic blockade. He said that these circumstances have borne out the fact that creativity and quick and perfect achievements have been a living symbol of the basic qualities of the Iraqi people throughout the course of their ancient civilization.

The prime minister added that the practical side of the Council of Ministers' march requires revolutionizing its mode of action and adopting the speech of the party and people's leader, President Saddam Husayn, at the inauguration of the 10th Regional Congress, the Congress of Reconstruction and Jihad. This is in order to achieve the tasks of the next stage as his excellency defined them politically, socially, and economically. The prime minister said that the speech will offer a guideline for our victorious march under his excellency's banner.

The Council of Ministers also discussed items on its agenda and made the appropriate decisions on them, including providing stationery for students as part of the free teaching program.

Biographies of New Regional Command Members

JN1909150591 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 15 Sep 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "A Biographical Sketch of the New Comrades of the Regional Command"]

[Text] Name: Comrade Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sa'dun.

Date and Place of Birth: 1942, al-Saqr Village, Suq al-Shuyukh District, Dhi Qar Governorate.

Scholastic Achievement: Graduated from preparatory school, scientific orientation; enrolled in the Military Academy in 1963, and dismissed after the November Disavowal [reference to the outset of the Corrective Movement in Syria].

Holds a B.A. degree in law from Baghdad University, the Faculty of Law and Politics; higher diploma from al-Bakr University for Higher Military Studies of National Defense.

1956: Joined the ranks of the party.
Late 1963: Won the honor of membership.
1964: Promoted to a group member.
1968: Promoted to a branch member.
1970: Appointed a member of the Peasants Central Bureau and the Central Branch of al-Kharkh.
1971: Appointed in charge of al-Qadisiyah Governorate Organization.
1973: Appointed in charge of al-Muthanna Governorate Organization.
1975: Appointed in charge of al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate Organization.
1978: Appointed member of the Peasants Central Bureau.
1979: Appointed secretary of the Maysan Command Branch and member of the South Organization Bureau.
1981: Appointed member of the Baghdad Branch and member of the Baghdad Organization Bureau.
1982: Appointed secretary of the al-Najaf Command Branch, commander of the governorate's popular army, and member of the Euphrates Organization Bureau.
1983: Appointed governor of Salah-al-Din and member of the Center Organization Bureau.
29 July 1984: Was one of the first group to be awarded the Party Badge.
1988: Director of the Regional Secretariat Bureau and secretary of the Organization of Iraqis Abroad Bureau.
13 September 1991: Elected member of the Regional Command.

Name: Muhammad Yunus Mahmud al-Ahmad.

Date and Place of Birth: 1943, al-Mawali Village, Ninawa.

Scholastic Achievement: A graduate of the Military Academy and the Faculty of Economy and Political Science.

1959: Joined the party ranks.
1969: Awarded the honor of membership.
1970: Appointed a Group Command member.
1972: Appointed a Branch Command member.
1974: Appointed a Section Command member.
7 January 1977: Appointed member of the Military Bureau.
1982-1984: Appointed an associate member of the Culture and Information Bureau and director of the Political Guidance Bureau.
29 July 1984: Awarded the Party Badge.
1985: Appointed member of the Center Organization Bureau.

1987: Appointed member of the Workers Central Bureau and member of Khalid Bin-al-Walid Section.
1987-1991: Appointed director of the Railway State Enterprise, member of the Euphrates Organization Bureau, and governor of al-Muthanna.
13 September 1991: Elected member of the Regional Command.

Name: Comrade Khadr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Husayn 'Ali al-Duri.

Date and Place of Birth: 1944, al-Dur District.

Scholastic Achievement: The Military College and Law School.

1958: Joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
1965: Earned the honor of membership.
1965-1968: Appointed in charge of the military organization in al-Basrah Governorate.
1969-1974: Branch Command member in the Military Bureau.
1974-1978: Section Command member in the Military Bureau.
1978-1982: Member of the Palestine Orgnization Bureau and dean of the National Security College.
1982-1985: Head of the General Secretariat of the National Command and Secretary to the Unit Branch Command.
1985-1988: Member of the North Orgnization Bureau/secretary to al-Ta'mim Section Command.
1988-1989: Member of the Central Bureau of the Professional and Popular Organization.
1989-1990: Member of Baghdad Organization Bureau.
1990-13 September 1991: Member of the Center Orgnization Bureau/Diyali Governor.
29 July, 1984: Awarded the Party Badge.
13 September, 1991: Elected member of the Regional Command.

Name: Comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Duri.

Date and Place of Birth: 1944, Baghdad.

Scholastic Achievement: The Military Academy.

1958: Joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
1965: Had the honor of membership in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
1969: Appointed member of Branch Command/deputy secretary to the Diyali Military Branch Command.
1970-1973: Secretary to Mosul Military Branch Command.
1977-1978: Secretary to the Party Section Command in the USSR.
1980: Iraq's ambassador to the USSR.
29 July, 1984: Received the Party Badge.
1988-1991: Member of the Military Bureau and Director of Public Security.
1991-13 September, 1991 The Euphrates Organization Bureau member-al-Najaf Governor
Awarded the Revolution Medal of the first order in recognition of his contribution to the fight against treachery and treason in the Mother of Battles, 1991.
13 September, 1991: Won membership in the Regional Command.

Name: Comrade Nuri Faysal Shahir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hadithi.

Date and Place of Birth: 1939, Hadithah, al-Anbar.

Scholastic Achievement: Military Academy.

1955: Joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
1963: Had the honor of membership.
1969-1973: Member of the al-Habbaniyah Group Command, Military Bureau.
1973-1975: Member of the Karkuk Branch Command.
1975-1976: Member of the Northern Military Command Section.
1976-1979: Member of the Baghdad Military Section Command/Military Bureau member.
1979-1982: Member of the Baghdad Section Command, secretary of the al-'Azamiyah Branch (member of the Baghdad Organization Bureau)
1979-1982: Appointed minister of awqaf and religious affairs.
1982-1983: Babil governor.
1982-1986: Appointed minister of youth.
1991-13 September 91: Dhi Qar governor.
29 July 1984: Awarded the Party Badge.
13 September 1991: Elected as member of the Regional Command.

Name: Comrade Mizhir Matni al-'Awwad al-Hardan al-Dulaymi.

Date and Place of Birth: 1939, al-Anbar.

Scholastic Achievement: Graduate of the Administration Institute.

1958: Joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
1961: Had the honor of membership in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
1975: Member of the Irbil Section Command/secretary of the Dahuk Branch Command.
1976: Member of the North Organization Bureau.
1982: Member of the al-Furat Organization Bureau and al-Muthnanna governor.
1987: Member of the Baghdad Organization Bureau Command.
29 July 1984: Awarded the Party Badge.
13 September 1991: Elected member of the Regional Command.

Name: Comrade Fawzi Khalaf Ruzayq Mahmud al-Tikriti.

Date and Place of Birth: 1940, Tikrit.

Scholastic Achievement: B.A. in law, and a higher diploma from the al-Bakr University.

1958: Joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
1966: Had the honor of membership in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.
1969: Group Command member.
1973-1977: Branch Command member at the Salah-al-Din Section, Military Bureau.
1977-1979: Branch Command member in the Military Bureau/al-Anbar Section.
1979-1980: Member of the Central Peasant Bureau.
1980-1982: Member of the Central Workers' Bureau and member of the Foreign Relations Bureau.
1982-1985: Section secretary at the National Organization,
1985-1987: Director general of the Bureau of the National Command's General Secretariat/secretary of a unit's section command.
1987-1988: Director general of the country's secretariat/official in charge of organizing Iraqis outside Iraq.
1988-13 September 1991: Secretary of Salah-al-Din Section Command.
15 August 1984: Awarded the Party Badge.
13 September 1991: Elected member of the Regional Command.

Al-Zubaydi Chairs Meeting; Seed Prices Reduced

JN1809200591 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Sep 91 pp 1, 11

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi stated that promoting agriculture will be a priority of the coming stage to achieve food security for the Iraqi citizen and to abort hostile plans to starve Iraq's people.

The prime minister chaired a meeting yesterday attended by Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh and a number of specialists in agriculture. He asserted that the nature and volume of aggression against Iraq require an exceptionally persistent effort to foil the economic blockade and build a prosperous Iraq.

During the meeting, it was decided to reduce the price of wheat seed sold by the government to farmers from 1,343 dinars to 1,000 dinars per tonne and to reduce the price of improved wheat seed from 1,170 dinars to 950 dinars per tonne.

The conferees also decided to reduce the prices of barley seeds to 700 dinars from 995.9 dinars per tonne.

Farmers who marketed their crops during the past season will be the first to get seeds.

The prime minister stressed that the aim is to grow whatever we can in Iraq's arable land, stressing that effective measures will be taken against those who fail to cultivate their land. This is in implementation of the Revolution Command Council's decision to confiscate any piece of land whose owner or lessee fails to cultivate it.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi also stressed the need to provide all that is needed to promote agriculture and raise the Iraqi citizen's standard of living.

The meeting also discussed the Iraqi seed production company as well as ways of promoting its capability to produce improved seeds at suitable prices in order to increase agricultural production and crops.

The meeting also discussed ways of distributing the company's services and establishing more centers in the country to facilitate the supply of seed to farmers.

Execution, Antigovernment Operations Reported

NC1909154891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Our courageous revolutionaries have put to death criminal Yasin [name indistinct], who hails from al-Maymunah District of Maysan Governorate, in implementation of the people's decision to take revenge on the henchmen of Saddam's despicable regime who adopted a hostile stand against our triumphant people.

In another development, a group of our heroic mujahidin ambushed a vehicle carrying several 'Aflaqi officials on the Baghdad-al-Kut road. The heroes fired their machine guns and grenade launchers at the vehicle, destroying it along with its criminal Ba'thist passengers, including the so-called Muhiy Mu'allim, member of the (al-Suwayr) Ba'th Party command. After carrying out its courageous mission, the group returned safely to its base, having proven that the people will not remain silent about the traitors and that those who lend a hand to the tyrant of Baghdad will be severely punished in due course.

Foreign Minister's Memo to ICRC on Kuwaitis

JN1809191791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1736 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Sep (INA)—Iraq reiterated its full readiness to return Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis and to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] within arrangements in this regard.

In a memorandum to the ICRC in Geneva, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn said today that the great efforts being exerted by Iraq in coordination with the ICRC to facilitate the return of all Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis to Kuwait were met only with more difficulties by Kuwaiti authorities hampering these persons' return and using this issue as a card to continue the propaganda and political campaign based on lies and deception against Iraq.

The following is the text of the foreign minister's memorandum:

The Foreign Ministry extends its greetings to the ICRC in Geneva, and with reference to the memorandum of the ICRC's mission in Baghdad No. 5,951, dated 15 September 1991, along with a list submitted by the Kuwaitis containing the names of 2,242 Kuwaitis or residents of Kuwait, we would like to explain the following:

1. The Kuwaiti authorities submitted a revised list of the names of 3,479 Kuwaitis or residents of Kuwait to the

competent Iraqi authorities through the Arab League. It was noticed that the names were included on the list that was submitted to the ministry by the abovementioned ICRC mission in Baghdad, in addition to the list that was submitted by the Arab League.

2. The competent Iraqi authorities previously freed 177 persons whose names were included on the list that was submitted to us through the Arab League under the supervision of the ICRC.

3. The names of persons included on the list who are still in Iraq number 34 persons registered with the ICRC mission and are waiting for the Kuwaiti authorities' to agree to their return.

4. The competent Iraqi authorities have no information at present on the other 2,268 named persons included on the said list.

5. There are 36 military and civilian persons, 17 of whom are Kuwaitis, 14 Egyptians, two Saudis, two Syrians, and one Bahraini, whose names were not mentioned on the abovementioned list. Those persons were registered by the Red Cross mission, which is awaiting the approval of the authorities in Kuwait or the competent authorities in their countries to repatriate them.

6. In Iraq, there are now 3,536 persons from Kuwaiti families or residents of Kuwait whose names have not be included on the list. However, the Red Cross mission in Baghdad egistered their names and it is awaiting the Kuwaiti authorities' approval of their repatriation.

What was mentioned in the paragraphs 1-6 above accurately explains the status of Kuwaiti citizens or Kuwait residents who were released by the competent Iraqi authorities under the supervision of the ICRC, or those who are still in Iraq and who were registered by the Red Cross mission in anticipation of the Kuwaiti authorities' approval of their repatriation.

Iraq stresses its full readiness, as it reiterated several times, to repatriate all Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis and to cooperate with the ICRC within the arrangements in this regard. However, the big efforts Iraq is exerting by coordinating with the ICRC to facilitate the repatriation of all Kuwaitis and others to Kuwait have only been faced with further difficulties caused by the Kuwaiti authorities. This is to obstruct their repatriation and to exploit this issue as a card to continue its media and political anti-Iraq campaign, which is based on calumny and disinformation.

The ICRC, the international community, and humanitarian and international organizations are all called upon to put pressure on the authorities in Kuwait in order to secure the repatriation of all Kuwaitis and others referred to in paragraphs 3, 5, and 6 to Kuwait and to put an end to the exploitation of and capitalization on this issue as part of false and deceptive allegations with known purposes aimed at continuing the unjust economic blockade against Iraq.

The ministry takes this opportunity to express its best regards and respect.

The ICRC, Geneva.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq

[Dated] 10 Rabi' al-Awwal 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 18 September 1991

Oil Minister Leaves for OPEC Meeting in Geneva

JN2009094491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti today left for Geneva to attend the fourth meeting of the OPEC ministerial committee scheduled to start on Wednesday.

In a statement to INA, the oil minister said they will discuss OPEC's production ceiling for the last quarter of 1991, which stands at 22.3 billion barrels a day, a figure the OPEC's June ministerial conference agreed to freeze.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Syrian Military Power

JN2009104491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says the memorandum of understanding carried by James Baker to Damascus within the framework of his seventh tour of the region shows that the Bush administration is interested in entrenching the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and usurpation of Arab rights.

In an analysis in the "Stand" column today, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party points out that the U.S. memorandum completely rules out any possibility of pressuring Israel and forcing it to implement the UN resolutions on the Palestine question. It says the memorandum seeks to find points of agreement between Hafiz al-Asad and Tel Aviv through direct negotiations on the basis that Egypt is still abiding by the Camp David accords.

In its analysis, AL-THAWRAH concentrates on one of the paragraphs in the memorandum of understanding. It proposes that, if a Syrian-Israeli agreement on the interpretation of Resolution 242 is not reached, discussion of the topic is to be deferred until the Palestine question is settled.

The paper explains that the memorandum proposes that the two parties accept an American compromise solution to their differences. It also points out that al-Asad's regime is eager to accept the proposal, while there are no signs of Israeli readiness to respect the promises the Bush administration made.

The paper touches on the Syrian-Israeli dispute over the Golan Heights and says the U.S. memorandum stresses the need to link Israeli withdrawal from the Golan with strong Syrian guarantees not to threaten Israel's security.

AL-THAWRAH says those guarantees also include a reconsideration of Syria's military power and the destruction of Syrian weapons thought to be of danger to Israel.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying the United States' objective behind the memorandum is to destroy the pillars of Arab renaissance now that it has begun destroying Iraq's military power. The paper says it regrets the fact that all this destruction of Arab resources is taking place with the support and blessing of the agent Arab regimes and is being financed by the Arab oil-producing countries. It says this constitutes the first step on the path of fragmenting Arab society from within in order to destroy it at a later stage and help realize the Zionist dream of establishing the State of Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile.

Shamir Urges U.S. To Be 'Objective'

TA1909142191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the United States must be objective and not take sides in the Middle East conflict.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that, in a meeting with U.S. congressmen, the prime minister said that the Arab world is currently in a state of euphoria as a result of the Arabs' perception that the United States is on their side. Shamir noted that this will not facilitate peace but only make it more difficult to achieve.

The prime minister added that a linkage between the loan guarantees and the political process will neither help the peace process nor aid in absorbing immigrants. The congressional delegation, headed by Wayne Owens, a Democrat from Utah, expressed their appreciation of Prime Minister Shamir's adherence to the peace process despite the disagreement over the loan guarantees.

Americans 'Will Return to Their Senses'

TA1909174991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpts] We are not required to choose between settlement and the absorption of immigrants, said the prime minister at a ceremony at which a street was named after David Niv, an Etzel [pre-state underground] historian, in Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood. A man can disagree with us on the question of Israel's borders, and yet support aliyah, added Mr. Shamir. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports: [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We are not facing the dilemma of making a choice between settlement and aliyah. There is no contradiction and never has been.

As for Israel's borders—there is no need to talk about settlements, because they are part of the question of where Israel's borders lie—there are disagreements, but there need be no linkage between these two issues. No matter what view a man holds, he is still duty-bound to support and assist the absorption of immigrants.

[Amsalem] And if Baker thinks the Golan should be given back to Syria, well, my opinion is different, said the prime minister. Referring to the American public stand, he added:

[Shamir] I think that what we have being seeing and hearing in the past days is untrue, unrealistic. This is not the reality; this is not the American people. The American people will return to their senses. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir Aides Want Reexamination of Agreements

TA2009092691 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Gilat and Gay Bakhor]

[Excerpt] Close aides of the prime minister believe that there is a need to reexamine all the agreements with the Americans, and it is possible that Israel may request a bilateral letter of guarantees instead of the "letter of assurances" in order to create a close commitment between the sides.

The latest announcements in Damascus have reinforced this approach, particularly in view of the stress Baker has placed on implementing UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

Israel believes that the Syrians conceive of the entire process as a technical process aimed at implementing UN resolutions—in other words: a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. An additional Baker shuttle mission to Israel has not been ruled out.

The prime minister's bureau believes that the United States and Syria have recently grown closer, and this worries Israel. "Al-Asad has already received a great deal in return for his readiness to attend the conference," a senior official in Jerusalem said. "He has already received full control over Lebanon, and it now seems that he believes he will also get an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and that is something to which we will be unable to agree."

The understanding remarks Baker made yesterday about al-Asad and King Husayn aroused much displeasure in the prime minister's bureau. Shamir himself said in internal talks that although the United States supports the Arab states' position, it must not say so publicly prior to the negotiations if it wants to maintain the status of an "honest broker."

Shamir made remarks in this vein to congressmen with whom he met yesterday. Shamir believes that by making pro-Arab statements before negotiations begin, the United States might torpedo the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Levi Denies Baker Demanded Stop to Settlements

TA1909132491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said that Secretary of State Baker, during his talks in Jerusalem, never demanded that Israel halt the settlements. Levi asserted that Baker said exactly the opposite, that the Arabs had demanded that he insist that Israel stop the settlements but that Baker had refused, telling them that this was an issue for the negotiations.

As for the loan guarantees, Levi pointed out that he had discussed the issue with his U.S. counterpart, and it had

been decided to continue discussions until a solution satisfactory to both parties is found.

Foreign Minister Levi was responding to questions from our political correspondent Arye Golan after a meeting with U.S. congressmen.

'Differences' in Baker Remarks, Documents

TA1909201791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem views the remarks of President Bush and his secretary of state as a design to establish facts in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza prior to the beginning of peace negotiations. The linkage of aliyah, loan guarantees, and settlements is perceived here as an attempt to prevent further investment in these areas. The political echelons feel angry and disappointed.

Meanwhile it appears that there are differences between Baker's remarks aboard his plane, as it was making the rounds of the Arab capitals, and his written proposals to Israel. Thus, the document he left in Jerusalem only two days ago, for instance, states among other things that the United States will support the Israeli position that peace with Syria should ensure Israel's security in the event of an attack from the Golan Heights. The document further states that this peace must be acceptable to both sides and that the Americans—and this is an important point—have not as yet formulated a final stand on the question of borders in the north. When the United States does formulate a stand—and this is a quote—it will attach eminent weight to Israel's stand, according to which any peace agreement has to be based on Israel's remaining on the Golan Heights. The Americans are furthermore undertaking to guarantee borders agreed on by the parties. [passage omitted]

Sharon, Kollek Agree on East Jerusalem Project

TA1909195491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry plans to build a new Jewish housing project in Giv'at Hazeytim in the vicinity of the Arab neighborhood of Wadi al-Jawz in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen has learned that last Tuesday, Minister Ari'el Sharon discussed the issue with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, after which Kollek withdrew his objection to the plan.

The plan will complete territorial continuity between the government offices in al-Shaykh Jarrah and Mount Scopus. The initial stage of the plan envisions 300 housing units spread over 30 dunams. To accomplish that, the Construction and Housing Ministry will compensate local Arab garage owners.

The Jerusalem Municipality spokesman has confirmed the Sharon-Kollek meeting and stressed that the plan will not be implemented against the wishes of the area's Arab residents.

Knesset Okays 15 Million Shekels for Territories

TA2009120491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The Knesset Finance Committee today approved a 15- million shekel allocation for building in the administered territories. The approval was originally scheduled for the same day as Secretary Baker was in Israel. It was put off because the timing was thought unpolitic. It passed despite heavy opposition, including that from Labor whip Hayim Ramon, who today said Israel will next year spend 2 billion shekels on settlements in the territories. Le'a Zinder reports:

The 15-million shekel allocation was approved at today's extraordinary session of the Knesset Finance Committee in Tel Aviv. The vote was strictly along party lines. All coalition members were in favor; all opposition members against. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon on Use of Funds Inside Green Line

TA1909190191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] One of the first Israeli officials to reject linkage between the loans and the settlements was Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office. He said a freeze is out of the question. In this interview with Jack Katzenell, he explains Israel's objection to the mixing of humanitarian and political issues.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] It makes the Russian refugees into pawns in a political context. The issue is a humanitarian one, of helping us absorb hundreds of thousands of Russian refugees, and we sincerely believe that the United States should not place the loan guarantees as a condition that pertains to any political issue on the peace process.

[Katzenell] And what about the closer supervision which the United States wants, the more detailed reports on what Israel is doing in the territories—the implication being that the Americans don't want to see on television the aerial photographs of massive building in the territories when Israel has not reported this to them?

[Ben-Aharon] We had undertaken to supply the United States with information on settlement activity, and that information was conveyed to the best of our capacity. Of course, the representatives of the United States have told us that this is not enough. They wanted much more detailed reports, which we were not able to supply, because there is no division in the national budget in Israel between funds that are used across the Green Line and funds that are used on this side of the line. But, as I said before, we are willing to provide guarantees that

American money, or money that was guaranteed by the U.S. Government, will not be used for the purpose of setting up settlements.

And as for aerial photography and pictures of the new settlements, we are not hiding anything, and we know for a fact that the United States has no problem in acquiring the total picture of what is taking place in these territories. [end recording]

Bush Persuades Kohl Not To Rush German Aid

TA2009073791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Sep 9[illegible] p A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and 'Oded Shorer]

[Excerpt] The immigrant absorption guarantees affair is getting even more complicated: Yesterday, it became known that Germany is considering a delay in approving the $5 billion guarantees for credit requested by Israel.

Sources in Washington confirmed information obtained by MA'ARIV according to which President Bush and Chancellor Kohl, who visited Washington last week, reached an understanding on this issue. Bush and Kohl agreed that there is no need for Germany to rush the approval of the state guarantees to Israel when the United States is putting them off until January 1992. MA'ARIV was told that Bush convinced Kohl of the need to put off all contacts concerning economic aid to Israel in order to prevent delays in the convening of the peace conference.

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that they have not been notified of a German intention to delay the aid. A source familiar with the issue said that so far, only preliminary talks have been held with the Germans and that detailed discussions will be held next month. According to him, so far there have been no signs of any political conditions being linked to the German aid. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 20 September carries a report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir on pages A1 and A8, adding: "Negotiations with Germany on the Israeli request for $5 billion worth of aid for immigrant absorption have already begun, but—following the contacts with the United States—political sources in Jerusalem said that no practical steps will be taken as long as President Bush does not signal to the Germans that the time is right to aid Israel."]

Aide on Germans; Shamir's 'Bad Dream'

TA2009074491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Gay Zohar—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon.
[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Zohar] The headline in MA'ARIV and other Israeli newspapers is that Germany is thinking of holding up $5 billion in aid to Israel. The report says that an understanding was reached on that between President Bush and Chancellor Kohl, who visited Washington this week. Does Jerusalem know anything about this?
[Ben-Aharon] No, nothing. I have also not heard that there was talk of such massive German aid to Israel.

[Zohar] What sort of aid is being discussed?
[Ben-Aharon] What is being considered is aid in the wake of the Gulf war, and some of it is already in the works. In reference to other requests, negotiations are under way. I do not discount the possibility that the United States is asking other countries not to give us aid at this stage in order to pressure us. I hope that this is not the case.

[Zohar] We read that German Economic Cooperation Minister Carol-Dieter Spranger said in Cairo that it is unreasonable that his government will approve the Israeli request at the present time. Those remarks perhaps confirm the previously mentioned headline.
[Ben-Aharon] That may be the case, but I also believe he wants to please his hosts.

[Zohar] James Baker was asked last night in Amman about the possibility of convening a conference without Palestinian participation. How do you view that possibility?
[Ben-Aharon] We are prepared to negotiate with any element, any Arab state, and, as is known, we are ready to negotiate with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip on setting up autonomy. We are ready to negotiate with whichever side is prepared to conduct direct bilateral negotiations .

[Zohar] President Bush, it appears, is very adamant in insisting on postponing the granting of the loan guarantees, and there are those who say that he will remain firm on that even if the government agrees to a settlement freeze. Can one say that Israel has lost the battle for the guarantees?
[Ben-Aharon] I do not see it as a battle. There is a dispute over the issue. To our regret, the United States has mixed apples and oranges. We are trying to explain matters to the U.S. public, to Congress, and also to Secretary Baker, with whom the prime minister discussed the issue for several hours. We hope that a solution will be found that will not harm the right of Soviet immigrants to receive aid from the international community, especially the United States, for their absorption here.

[Zohar] In other words, you are talking about a compromise.
[Ben-Aharon] There may be a compromise; that is also a possibility.

[Zohar] In which direction is Israel moving? To what sort of compromise does it aspire?
[Ben-Aharon] We are not dealing with that. It has already been placed on the U.S. table, if it can be put that way. The moment our request was presented to the

administration and a bill on that issue was submitted to the Senate, it became something over which we have no control. It is up to discussions between the leaders of both Houses of Congress and the U.S. Administration.

[Zohar] Are you prepared to estimate when a peace conference will be convened, or can it not be estimated at this stage?
[Ben-Aharon] I know that the United States aspires to convene the conference—the regional meeting to launch direct negotiations—in late October. That is the target, but of course it depends on several conditions and several developments, first and foremost the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will be acceptable to us. That was one of the conditions from the start, as the United States is aware. In addition, the USSR must renew full diplomatic relations with Israel. That must also precede the convening of the conference.

[Zohar] May I also put the question differently? When will the bad dream, the dream that Yitzhaq Shamir referred to last night, end? [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 20 September carries a report by 'Aqiva Eldar on pages A1 and A8 on Shamir's appearance on 19 September at a street-naming ceremony in Jerusalem, at which "the prime minister was asked: 'Have U.S.-Israeli relations reached a crisis point?,' to which he replied: 'I do not know how one can mark that point. I hope this will pass like a bad dream.'"]
[Ben-Aharon] Everybody knows our relations with the United States are not enjoying a honeymoon, because we are dealing with an issue that we consider vital to our existence, while the United States has interests in the Arab world and attributes to them what we believe is too much importance. In the history of our relations, there have been many incidents of friction over differences or harsh complaints, and even the holding up of aid. I remember very well that during the War of Attrition, the United States delayed the supply of Phantoms for months, although it had promised us in a signed contract that it would supply them on fixed dates. In the final analysis, we received the Phantoms and the aid came in massive quantities. I believe, as the prime minister said, this unpleasant stage will pass and we will return to cooperation regarding Israel's security needs and peace.

Netanyahu Calls for Opposing U.S. Position

TA1909155491 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Dan Margalit—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Good evening, Mr. Netanyahu.
[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Margalit] Let me start with the recent past. We heard almost all our government officials—including you, I believe—saying over recent months and weeks that you do not believe that the United States will link the humanitarian issue of immigrant absorption with current political issues. The United States, however, is definitely making that connection. To use a rather common expression: Did we screw up?
[Netanyahu] I do not think we screwed up. We said that we could not believe this out of amazement and out of the hope that such a connection could not be made. It does indeed seem that such a link is being made, however, and we clearly reject it.

[Margalit] Were we wrong in our assessment of the U.S. position?
[Netanyahu] No, I can tell you that we had rather solid assessments that we were headed in this direction, but we hoped until the very last minute that there might be a change. I am still hoping that things can change.

[Margalit] So why did government officials keep their assessment of possible developments secret from the public?
[Netanyahu] Look, even talking about such things sometimes gives them legitimacy, but I would like to tell you where we stand right now. We are actually facing three demands that originate not in the United States but in the Arab world. First of all, the Arabs demand that we stop the aliyah. In effect, this is what we oppose. Second, they are trying to force us back to the 1967 borders, and we oppose this as well. Third, on the eve of the opening session of the regional conference, they are trying to make us choose between demographic and geographic strangulation. It is clear that we reject this as well. If the United States lends its hand to any of these demands, we will reject it coming from the United States as well. It does not matter which direction it comes from.

[Margalit] The United States did not adopt two of the demands you just mentioned, but the issue of the settlements was indeed raised on James Baker's plane when it was departing Israel two days ago. The question I want to ask you is: If, in light of the U.S. position, and in light of the importance of aliyah for the State of Israel, is there room to reconsider a temporary or total halt to settlements during the peace conference negotiations?
[Netanyahu] Let us put the question the other way around. Suppose the Arabs said: Slow down the immigration a bit. After all, they are saying this as well. Suppose they said that it would be better if Israel halted aliyah altogether, but that it can at least slow it down or call a temporary freeze on aliyah. Would you agree to that? In other words, this is some kind of attempt to force unacceptable conditions on us on the eve of negotiations and even before the talks have started. Of course, we do not accept it, and I think that we have ample means at our disposal with which to fight this, contrary to what we have become accustomed to thinking.

[Margalit] In other words, Israel can bullheadedly continue egging the Congress on against President Bush?
[Netanyahu] Excuse me, this is not bullheadedness and this is not against President Bush. It is for the sake of a principle that Zionism has been fighting for since the 1920's. The Arabs tried to stop aliyah in many ways, including cooperating with the Nazis and later the

Soviets and by pressuring the British. Today, in the second half of the 20th century, they are pressuring the United States. We have always opposed these linkages and conditions.

[Margalit] But the rug will be pulled out from under their feet if we give up the settlements. In other words, the United States will not support a position that calls for stopping the immigration, it is calling for a halt to the settlements. Could the Israeli Government consider this demand?
[Netanyahu] And where will this end? Now the demand pertains to the settlements. We are being asked to give up the Jewish people's elementary right to return to or live in Judaea. Now it is clear that if you forgo this elementary right, you will quickly concede your other rights, because we all know that the process has not even started and the demands have not even been made yet. I have no doubt, and I am sure that my opinion is shared by many, that once one embarks on a path of capitulation the end is clear; it is certainly clear to the Arabs, who by the way are already hardening their positions. I think that clear limits must be defined right now. The issue is a justifiable position that we must adamantly support—the issue of aliyah and our right to enter negotiations without dictates. That was our understanding with the United States.

[Margalit] We continue to use two different terms. The Americans say settlements—and I am only quoting them—while you keep on changing the word settlement to aliyah. These are two different things, after all—one can immigrate to Israel without settling in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. From your statements, I can only understand that the Israeli Government prefers to continue its current policy on settlements even if President Bush remains adamant or even if Baker carries out what he threatened on his plan and does not give Israel an inch.
[Netanyahu] Look, the question of the settlements is actually the question of Israel's borders. Nobody deludes himself that the Arab pressure on settlements will end with the settlements. It is only the prelude to pressure designed to force us back to the 1967 borders. This pressure is unjustified, especially before the beginning of the negotiations. Let them come to the negotiations with all their demands, and we will know to deflect them or to pose counter-demands. But this is unjustified before holding negotiations.

[Margalit] Can Israel still consider the United States an honest broker under these conditions, especially after the reports that Washington has given Syria a letter of clarification stating that it accepts the Syrian interpretation that Security Council Resolution 242 includes an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights?
[Netanyahu] This is very worrying. I believe that it casts a shadow on the entire process and makes it very difficult, even if this is not the U.S. intention. Instead of facilitating the convening of the conference, I think that it has only made things more difficult, and not because of Israel. I can already hear demands today from the Arab side and their cries of happiness that since nobody can be more pro-Arab than the Arabs, the very fact that the United States is putting such pressure on Israel means that the Arabs can make far more extreme demands. Therefore, this is causing difficulties. I think, however, that there is something far more fundamental here. Look, nobody thinks, and I am sure that you do not, that we are at the end of the process. We are before the beginning of a process. Many demands will be made on us during this process, and we will have to oppose these demands—not because we have ruled out making any concessions; there are some concessions we can make.

One thing, however, is clear. If we remain economically dependent on the United States, the result will be political dependency and constantly increasing dictates. That is why I feel that in addition to our ability to find what is necessary in the event that we do not get the loan guarantees—and we do have the necessary resources to absorb immigrants over the coming year even though it will not be easy or simple—we must immediately launch efforts to rehabilitate the economy, carry out widespread privatization, free lands, and simplify the investment process in Israel so that we can achieve the economic independence that will give us political independence, the importance of which you previously implied.

[Margalit] That is already an issue for the finance minister to deal with. Thank you, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu.

Opposition Parties Speak Out on Settlements

TA1909204891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpts] The Labor Party is vehemently attacking the Likud tonight, accusing it of exploiting the settlement issue and the dispute with the U.S. Administration for internal needs and for the purpose of diverting attention from its failures.

Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports that Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin said tonight that the confrontation with the United States is a result of the Likud's fallacious order of priorities, which is incompatible with Israel's needs. MK Rabin said that in the period following the dissolution of the unity government, the Likud has erected 17,000 housing units in the territories—three times the number built during the unity government's term. [passage omitted]

Opposition MK's are reiterating their call to the government to stop settlement activities. They believe that a choice has to be made between settlements and the absorption of immigrants. Citizens Rights Movement MK Dedi Zucker says that the Likud must tell its constituents whether Zionism means the annexation of 2 million Palestinians or the absorption of 1 million immigrants.

MK Avraham Poraz from Shinuy says that Mr. Shamir must freeze settlement activities as a goodwill gesture symbolizing his desire to promote peace, as Menahem Begin did in the past.

MAPAM [United Workers Party], which has also denounced settlements, is tonight announcing the beginning of an extensive public struggle by the peace camp to terminate what it terms the government's running amok in this sphere.

Finally, MK Ya'ir Sprinzak of Moledet says that the government must announce immediately and unequivocally that Israel will not cede any territory it had liberated in the Six-Day War, either in advance or at a negotiating table.

'Brutal' U.S. Pressure Decried

TA1909114391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Knesset Member Yosi Beilin of Labor has accused Yosef Ben-Aharon of holding up the peace process and continuing to harm Israel's ties with the United States. He called on Prime Minister Shamir to dismiss Ben-Aharon.

Deputy Minister Ge'ula Kohen says Israel's reply to Secretary Baker should be the dissolution of the government and new elections. This was the only way to break what she termed the devilish moves of the U.S. Administration, which was trying to make Israel fold over the settlements issue.

Knesset Member Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party is initiating a meeting of its Central Committee to adopt a decision recommending the government suspend its agreement to the peace conference in view of what he called brutal American pressure. Porat said such pressure should be rejected with revulsion because it sought to bar Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel along the lines of the erstwhile British White Paper. Porat also argued the United States is not an honest broker, as indicated by its one-sided stand regarding withdrawal from the Golan. Porat is to meet Prime Minister Shamir tomorrow.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 19 September adds: "Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i says that Israel will accept no precondition regarding the loan guarantees, either from the Americans or from any other foreign element, even though the guarantees are very important to it. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that during a tour of Karmi'el, the minister disclosed that mostly long-time Israelis and not new immigrants have benefited from the bulk of the budgets allocated by his ministry for construction."]

'Cautious Optimism' in Territories on Peace

TA1909175491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] There is a sense of cautious optimism in the territories about the chances for Palestinian participation in the regional peace conference despite declarations published in the PLO's name expressing dissatisfaction with the U.S. letter of understanding. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports.

Up to this moment, the members of the Palestinian delegation have not responded to Secretary of State Baker's invitation to meet him in Amman to discuss the composition of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation with the Jordanian authorities. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation, is apparently in Tunis briefing the PLO leadership on his talks with Baker. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi is at home in Ramallah, and Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha, who was interrogated today at the police General Investigations Office in Petah Tiqva, has also returned home to Gaza.

Residents of the territories were amazed that Faysal al-Husayni had left for Tunis despite being interrogated in the past and warned against violating the law forbidding meetings with representatives of terror organizations.

It should be pointed out that despite the PLO's criticism of the U.S. letter of agreements, there was a feeling of optimism in the territories today. It appears that the representatives of the territories will try to influence the PLO leadership or the Palestine National Council in some way to decide to participate in the regional peace conference. Secretary of State Baker has more than once urged the Palestinians to take part in the peace conference or be the major losers.

Notables from the territories said today that the peace conference will be convened even without the Palestinians, so they should aspire to be represented at the negotiations even if not all their demands are met in the U.S. letter of understanding Baker gave the Palestinian delegation.

King, James Baker Open Talks in Amman 19 Sep

JN1909113691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The talks between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker opened at the Raghadan Palace at noon today. On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Political Adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur, and Royal Military Secretary His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad. On the U.S. side, the talks were attended by John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs; Edmund Hull, director for Near East and South Asian Affairs at the National Security Council; Dennis Ross, director of policy planning at the State Department; Margaret Tutwiler, State Department spokeswoman; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

The U.S. secretary of state arrived in Amman this morning on a two-day visit within his seventh tour of the region.

King, Baker Brief Press

JN1909171791 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1608 GMT 19 Sep 91

["The complete joint press conference" by His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker with unidentified reporters in Amman on 19 September—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. This is a very very great pleasure for me, once again, to welcome you to Jordan. But more than that I would like to say how happy I am, would be, very constructive discussions that we've had with the secretary of state. [sentence as heard] A dear friend has come back to this area again to continue his efforts and ours, all those involved in this region, for the attainment of our goal of a just and comprehensive peace in this area.

I have known Secretary Baker over a long period of time. And I believe that what he conveys with every occasion when I've had the pleasure of meeting him is the balance, integrity, the sincerity, and the clarity in terms of his vision, reflecting that of President George Bush, and the sense of responsibility the United States has to help resolve problems in this world, and in particular this chronic problem that we have been facing in this region for so long.

I would like to welcome the secretary and his colleagues once again, and to say that I am very very happy and very encouraged that we are on the path towards achieving our objectives of starting a process, and hopefully without delay, involving all of us in this area, and the Palestinians obviously, representing themselves regarding the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem. The possibilities are really there for them to come with us within, or under the umbrella of a joint delegation, to achieve that end where they will be responsible for the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of it. And, obviously we will be, together with others in the countries concerned, responsible for ours.

I think that the time has come for people to act, and act rapidly, and not to let this window of opportunity or this opportunity slip away. If we are really responsible, and we feel a sense of responsibility towards people—people in the occupied territories, who have endured the unendurable over so many years, and people everywhere, here in this country regardless of their origins, in the region.

And I have a feeling that elements that are opposed to peace, opposed to any progress towards peace, are everywhere. But, nonetheless, we have to prove that we know what responsibility means and I hope that we will be able to see some progress in the near future with the cooperation of all concerned who have shared this sense of responsibility towards future generations.

Thank you very very much indeed, and you are welcome.

[Baker] Thank you, Your Majesty, very much. It is a real pleasure to, once again, be back in Jordan and to have the opportunity to engage very constructively with you and your colleagues regarding our efforts to put together an active and viable peace process to deal with the problems of this region.

I, too, think that there is a real window of opportunity here—something that all of us should strive to take the advantage of, all of us, Israel, Arab states, Palestinians, in an effort to achieve a comprehensive settlement of this problem on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. And Your Majesty, let me say that, in my view, no one has been more serious, more substantive, more constructive in their efforts, and that no one has exhibited greater leadership and greater courage, Sir, than have you in your efforts. Not just the ones that we are undertaking together now, together with others, but efforts that you have made through the years in order to address this very very difficult problem.

And, indeed we join with you in the hopes that we will have some success on this occasion, that we will have an opportunity to move toward peace and to produce some stability, much needed stability for this region.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, Your Majesty, there is a published report today that says the PLO has ordered the Palestinian delegation, with whom you have met, not to meet with you here in Amman. The report says that the PLO rejected your request to hold such a meeting. My question is: Is there intimidation going on now of the Palestinians who have met with and who may wish to have met with you again here? And if these threats are real, how are you going to go forward in achieving the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation?

[Baker] Well, with your permission, Your Majesty, I will take a shot at that. We ...[changes thought], I would very

much like to meet with the Palestinians that we have been meeting with in Israel —here in Amman or anywhere else—that they would want to meet to follow up on the letter of assurances, the detailed letter of assurance which I delivered to them several nights ago in Israel. I cannot answer the question regarding intimidation. That is something I would not know anything about. I certainly hope it is not true, I trust it is not true. I would point out to you that those very same Palestinians from the territories have met with me on occasions outside of Israel—they have met with me in Washington—and there has been no effort that I am aware of on the part of anyone from the outside to prevent those meetings.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, would you care to comment on the question of intimidation?

[Husayn] I [word indistinct] the possibility of doing so, really. I would like to only say that we have been in touch with Palestinians in the diasporas, we have been in touch with our brethren and Palestinians in the occupied territories, and I think that the process is ongoing, we... [changes thought] as far as... [changes thought] if you look at the one dimension of it, the PLO is preparing to have... [changes thought] there is a PNC [Palestine National Committee] meeting that is going to be held soon. I only hope that we all realize that time is short and that the alternative to progress, real serious progress brought about by real, genuine recognition of the fact that this opportunity may not come again, ever, and that the only alternative is disaster—disaster in terms of people, disaster in terms of the region. [sentence as heard] What other options are there? So there may be some who are skeptical, there may be some who are negative in their attitudes, but I hope that understanding will grow to enable the overwhelming majority of people in this region to realize, and particularly on the Palestinian scene, that there is a chance, there is this window of opportunity, and to take advantage of it before it goes away, and I hope it won't, and I pray it won't, and we will do everything we can towards that end.

[Baker] I would like to add to that if I might, before we take another question, that I believe that this is the best opportunity that has presented itself in a long, long time. And I also think that it is going to be a long, long time before the bus ever comes by again. And if this opportunity is missed, in my opinion, Palestinians have perhaps the most to lose, because Palestinians have perhaps the most to gain from taking advantage of this opportunity.

[Reporter] You have been delivering letters of assurances to the parties concerned. I do not know if you are able at this stage to unveil some of these assurances. And if Your Majesty would be kind enough to tell us about whether you are satisfied with these assurances or not?

[Baker] These letters of assurance that we are giving to the various parties and participants are based on the discussions we have had over the course of the past six or seven months with the parties—prospective parties and participants. And we are, in those letters, reconfirming certain understandings and explanations and commitments that we have made during the course of trying to put this process together. The letters are, for the most part, quite lengthy. They will take some analysis. We are still working, for instance, with the Israelis with respect to the letter that we have presented to them, with the Palestinians with respect to the letter we have presented to them. Tomorrow, I will stop off briefly again in Damascus on my way home to the United States to talk more with the Syrians, with respect to the letters presented to them. And of course, his majesty has just received a rather lengthy letter. But the kinds of things that are in here are reiterations of our commitment, for instance, that what we seek is a comprehensive settlement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We point out that various parties will have, when the negotiations begin, different interpretations of what 242 might require, and that is what the negotiations are designed to deal with. We point out that notwithstanding those differing interpretations, the United States has a policy, position, of its own. In our view, 242 means land for peace on all fronts.

So these are the kinds of things that are being restated in these letters of assurance.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, could you please tell us what would you say to those Palestinians who say there is nothing on the table for them in this conference? Is there anything you can point to after your extensive talks with Secretary Baker that you could say to the Palestinians? This is what you could get from going to this conference?

[Husayn] I think the secretary has been able to do so very eloquently, and I believe he has been able to convey the position of the United States to all the parties to the conflict. I have a feeling that this is the same language used everywhere, which emphasizes our feeling that the United States is concerned for the establishment of a balanced peace that takes into consideration the rights of all and concerns itself with the future of this region and that of future generations to come. Obviously a very important element is the Palestinian dimension of the problem, and hence I've explained that as far as we are concerned here in Jordan, if the choice of the Palestinians is for a joint delegation we will provide the umbrella for these two delegations to come together, and for the Palestinian element in that delegation to deal with the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem, and we address ours together with everybody.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, you said during these talks that you did not want the run up to negotiations to fall into a contentious debate over the fundamental issues that should be talked about at the negotiations. But isn't it a fact that here in the Arab world, in Israel, and in Washington that there is already a contentious debate going on about Israel's settlements policy? Isn't the toothpaste really out of the tube on that issue, and shouldn't we go ahead and have it out?

[Baker] There has been a debate on a number of the issues, that will ultimately have to be resolved through negotiations, for 43 years. That debate has been ongoing with no resolution, and one reason is because the parties have not sat down face to face, across the table, in direct negotiations. Now we have an opportunity for this to happen, and it is in those negotiations that these issues must be considered, because it is only when the parties agree that they want to resolve these questions, and it's only when the parties agree that they want peace that there's going to be any resolution to the question, or there isn't going to be any peace.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] and the position of the United States. You explained to us what the position is regarding 242, but what about Jerusalem, taking into consideration the fact that the United States has said over and over that it does not want it divided; what does that mean?

[Baker] Well, it means simply that we think the status should be determined by negotiations, very simply.

[Reporter] Given that you have not yet heard from the Palestinians about whether they will attend this peace conference, I would like to ask you publicly whether there will be a peace conference. Should they say no?

[Baker] That's the question that you should direct in a different direction than toward me. It might be more appropriate to direct that question to Syria, and perhaps some other possible participants in the peace conference, rather than to me. Although let me say that what we're trying to put together, working very hard to accomplish, is a two-track process that will strive to achieve, and here let me again repeat the terms of reference that had been agreed to by all those who have said they will be there. They will strive to achieve a comprehensive settlement based on 242 and 338. Now then, if the Palestinians once again pass up an opportunity and prove that Abba Eban was right, there's nothing that we can do about it. The question then is will it be the desire of other parties, possible parties to the peace conference and negotiations, to strive to make whatever progress they can on the other issues that are involved here, and that is not a question that the United States can answer.

[Reporter] As a co-sponsor, will you be prepared to convene a conference without the Palestinians should the other parties agree to attend?

[Baker] We will be prepared to sponsor a conference that could proceed toward peace across the board on all of these issues on both tracks and on the issues that relate to both tracks.

[Reporter] The United States has agreed to give the guarantees to the Israelis after 120 days as we all heard. Then what will be the guarantees for the Arabs that these loans will not be used for building new settlements on the occupied territories? And how come, Sir, that you are always insisting that these settlements are obstacles facing the peace process while Mr. Bush said recently that the government already gave $400 million for absorbing the new immigrants? Thank you.

[Baker] Well, we did indeed.... [changes thought] Let me first make sure you understand one thing. The United States supports the free immigration of people from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia, and we worked very hard to achieve that. As a principle, we feel very strongly about it and we support it. We had asked for a 120-day delay in the consideration of the $10 billion absorption aid request so that we will not now have the debate that is implicit in your question, because we do not want it to adversely affect the possibilities for peace. And we think it would adversely affect the possibilities for peace. Your question beyond that is very hypothetical. But what we are asking the Congress of the United States to join with us in supporting is a 120-day pause for peace. We will continue to make that case.

[Reporter] Would Jordan be prepared to go to a peace conference if the Palestinians didn't come and, to follow on that, would Jordan also be prepared to go to a peace conference if Israel were to receive the $10 billion housing loan guarantees.

[Husayn] I hope I have made it very, very clear, as has the secretary, that we are working for a comprehensive peace, but that I believe also implies that everyone concerned and desirous of attaining a just and durable peace—a solution to this problem that has affected human beings for so long and affects their presence and their future and in a situation that runs contrary to the mainstream of events that are developing throughout the world for peace and for safeguarding human rights and national rights. [sentence as heard] I hope that everybody realizes their responsibilities, everybody who is in a position to assume responsibility realizes that. I think it is too early to suggest that people are not that responsible or that aware of their responsibility at this point in time. I believe that the Palestinian dimension of the problem is obviously a very, very important dimension. It is probably the most important. After all, we are dealing with the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian problem as such that has affected people throughout all the years that have passed. Therefore, I don't think we should be that pessimistic in terms of suggesting that we are at the end of the road, no we are not. I believe that everything that has happened is trying to lay the foundations for a process to deal with all aspects of this problem. At the same time, I hope everybody assumes their responsibilities and assumes them adequately, because again there is another dimension, if they don't they will bear the responsibility for doing so towards people, towards the future of this region, everywhere. I think the question is premature at this stage. We'll have to wait and see.

'Ashrawi To Meet Baker

TA2009053091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Secretary of State Baker arrives in Damascus today to receive President al-Asad's answer to the letter

of assurances presented to him yesterday. Before leaving for Damascus, Secretary Baker will confer in Amman in an unscheduled meeting with Palestinian representative Hannan 'Ashrawi. Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned that Hanan 'Ashrawi left Ramallah for Amman after receiving personal instructions from Yasir 'Arafat in the name of the PLO Executive Committee. It was reported that she will discuss with Baker the letter of assurances the Palestinians are requesting.

Ad Asks Baker To Lift al-'Aqabah Blockade

JN1809122491

[Editorial Report] Amman JORDAN TIMES in English on 18 September publishes the following advertisement in a box on its front page:

"Mr. Baker

"Welcome to Jordan

"You are doubly welcome because, this hospitable country and its people deserve to be dealt with as fairly, justly and honorably as possible.

"The naval embargo imposed by Security Council Resolution 660, though it did not specify Jordan, has affected this country and its inhabitants the most.

"Despite our limited resources, we have had to pay in excess of $100 million in extra shipping and inspection costs in one year. This has burdened the individual citizen both financially and psychologically.

"We wish to enlist your valuable assistance in addressing the wrong that have been inflicted upon Jordan and Jordanians, by lifting the embargo, imposed on al-'Aqabah, which has been one of the root causes of both our economic and psychological problems.

"We are certain that during your meetings with His Majesty King Husayn and his senior aides you will learn more of the magnitude and reality of the end results of this embargo on al-'Aqabah.

"Thank you, Mr. Secretary of State, in anticipation of your kind and positive efforts.

"[Signed] M.H. Nahhas/chairman

"The committee of businesses affected

"by the naval embargo on al-'Aqabah."

Captors Agree 'in Principle' To Free Mann

NC1909122291 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 19 (AFP)—The release of British hostage Jack Mann, predicted for late Wednesday, has been delayed at least 24 hours, forcing the 77-year-old pilot to spend another night in captivity and imposing great strain on his family back home.

A reliable source closely connected to the hostage affair said the postponement was caused by "final departure details" that remain to be ironed out. But he stressed that Mann's captors, the Revolutionary Justice Organization, have in principle agreed to free the long-time Beirut resident seized near his home on May 12, 1989. [passage omitted]

Rushdie Linked to Release

LD1909184291 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 19, IRNA—Husayn al-Musawi, head of the Islamic Amal Movement of Lebanon, said today that the awarding of a children's book prize to sentenced aspotate Salman Rushdie might affect the case of the Western detainees in Lebanon. Al-Musawi told IRNA, that it was possible for the issue of the detainees to be solved, however, he added, he could not rule out the adverse effects of the recent injury to Muslim sentiments in London. "It was believed that those detaining the Westerners would set free retired British pilot Jack Mann but this could be affected by such matters as the award to apostate Rushdie." He said the British Government was quite aware of the award to Salman Rushdie, and this is something that the wardens of Western detainees would take into consideration. "If Britain's role in the affair (awarding Rushdie) is proved", Al-Musawi believed, "the British should not be released, so that the British regime is not encouraged aggress upon Muslims." [sentence as received]

Cleric Says Release 'Unlikely'

NC1909195591 Paris AFP in English 1905 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 19 (AFP)—Islamic fundamentalists close to the hostages affair in Lebanon dampened hopes Thursday for the imminent release of British captive Jack Mann, linking the issue to British author Salman Rushdie and a cleric held by Israel.

Shaykh Ahmad Talib said a hostage release was unlikely before Israel freed another Shiite Moslem cleric, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. "I very much doubt that a Western hostage will be liberated in the coming hours," he told AFP from the south Lebanon village of Jibshit, where Shaykh 'Ubayd was the local imam before his abduction by Israeli troops in July 1989.

"The next step toward a comprehensive settlement to the hostages affair must be the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd," said Talib, who has stepped in as the village's imam. He had already warned Wednesday that no other hostage would be freed until Israel agreed to include 'Ubayd in its next round of prisoner releases. [passage omitted]

RJO: No Release Planned

NC1909210091 Paris AFP in English 2017 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Beirut, Sept 19 (AFP)—The Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO] said on Thursday that it does not intend to free one of the two Western hostages it holds. In a hand-written Arabic-language communique authenticated by a photograph of American hostage Joseph Cicippio, the group said it regretted having to "freeze all hope of releasing a hostage until the Israeli position is clarified, and the United Nations makes its efforts". In addition to Cicippio, the organization holds Briton Jack Mann, whose liberation has been reported to be imminent.

More on RJO Statement

NC2009063691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO] yesterday said it does not intend to release one of the two Western hostages it is holding. In a hand-written statement accompanied by a photograph of a U.S. hostage, the RJO said that Tel Aviv has only released 51 of the 80 prisoners whose release has been requested. The RJO said it has been awaiting the release of the rest but nothing has happened. The RJO said the issue of Shaykh 'Abd-al- Karim 'Ubayd remains of utmost importance and that the signals given so far have not been reassuring. The RJO expressed its regret over freezing the hope for a speedy release of some hostages until the Israeli position is clarified and the United Nations makes some effort.

Town Inhabitants Urge Army Deployment

NC1909134691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The committee representing the inhabitants of al-Burjayn has asked the government to deploy the Army along its coast and Iqlim al-Kharrub as soon as possible, particularly because the Army has been deployed in the south. The committee also requested that the task of keeping law and order be entrusted to government forces so that the evacuees can regain their usurped rights and save their property and livelihood.

Al-Asad ABC Interview on Peace Process

JN2009082491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0417 GMT 20 Sep 91

["Text" of interview with President Hafiz al-Asad by Diane Sawyer of the American ABC television network; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Sawyer] Your Excellency the President, thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to talk to you. In the United States, everyone says that there can be no peace without Syria. I want to ask you a personal question on the prospective peace process: How much hope do you pin on the peace conference? For example, while in your bedroom at night, do you believe that this can be the beginning of peace?

[Al-Asad] You are welcome. Naturally, there can be no peace in the region without Syria. Syria is an ancient country, and has historical, geographical, and regional status. Syria is part of the Arab nation. Part of its territory is occupied. Parts of other Arab brethren's territories are occupied as well. For all these considerations, there can be no stable and firm peace in the region without Syria. Regarding my hope for peace, if we lose hope in peace, there will be none. There are signs and there are serious efforts being made at this point in time by serious Arab, European, and U.S. parties for the sake of peace. If we take into consideration this seriousness, our optimism is greater, and we can say that a just and comprehensive peace will be achieved. If we view the other side of the issue, which is Israel's intransigence on the peace issue, we may become pessimistic. However, we will continue to work hard to attain or achieve peace.

[Sawyer] Someone has asked me to ask you the following question: Are you now ready to say that you utterly renounce violence against Israel?

[Al-Asad] When we say we seek peace, we understand well that the achievement of peace means an end to acts of violence. This is understood. However, all these matters are the product of the peace process; I mean, renunciation of violence and other things.

[Sawyer] I know, of course, that the negotiations are not with me, but at the conference. However, assuming that the conference is held and an agreement on the Golan heights is reached, will this be enough to achieve peace with Israel?

[Al-Asad] The efforts under way are based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the region. Naturally, within the context of this peace, the Golan Heights, as an occupied Syrian territory, will be returned to their natural status as part of Syria. When a comprehensive solution is implemented for both Arabs and Israelis, there will be a comprehensive peace, and the documents required by the peace process will be drafted. As you know, this will be decided at the conference between Israel and the Arabs.

[Sawyer] In other words, there will be no peace unless all aspects of these resolutions are implemented, including a solution to the Palestine question?

[Al-Asad] As I said, efforts are being made for a comprehensive solution, and the comprehensive solution must not leave any part of the problem unresolved. This is because when we leave any part of the problem unresolved, there can be no stable peace in the region. Here we face the experience we have gone through since 1978 between Egypt and Israel, where a problem was partly resolved. However, the elements of tension and war still exist. The Arab cause is basically one cause, and dividing it will not help achieve stable peace. Therefore, the U.S. efforts, which respond to the region's requirements of stability and just peace, seek to achieve a comprehensive solution. This comprehensiveness requires that we resolve all issues in the conflict between the Arabs and the Israelis.

[Sawyer] As you know, the United States is involved in a conflict with Israel regarding the $10 billion. So, if Congress endorses loan guarantees to Israel, would you go to the conference despite this? Does this change anything in the situation?

[Al-Asad] We, the Arabs, have been and remain concerned about achieving peace. Under all circumstances, we will always continue to make the efforts to achieve this peace to which we aspire. I say all Arabs. However, as for the $10 billion that Israel is asking for, it will certainly not help boost the peace process at all. Rather, it will raise major obstacles. Those billions mean houses for Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and other places in the occupied Arab territories—Palestinian, Syrian, and possibly Lebanese territories. Of course, when we find that these territories are full of houses inhabited by Jewish immigrants, there is nothing left to talk about within the framework of what can then be called a peace process. In our opinion, peace has two aspects—land and peace itself. So, if either of these two aspects were lost, the other would be lost too. In light of this, as one who observes what is taking place in the United States from a distance, I believe that President Bush's position on these billions embodies the interests of the American people, especially since the interests of the American people lie in peace and stability, and because the American people also have interests in this region. Consequently, the position he adopts is one that serves both peace and the American people.

Here I want to note that we in this region, and also in other regions, say that there is no U.S. policy, but an Israeli policy implemented by the United States. Over the years, I have said this directly to several U.S. officials. While reading about events in the United States regarding these funds, I feel that the U.S. official and the U.S. Government to a certain extent have this same feeling. They have the feeling that a U.S. decision is

almost not an American decision. Therefore, I can deduce that President Bush, in his capacity as President of the United States, is saying that his constitutional right, his legal right, and in fact his constitutional duty, is to make the decision a U.S. decision and put it in the hands of the Americans, and not in the hands of others.

[Sawyer] But would you still go to the conference?

[Al-Asad] This will be decided in time. In all cases, it is very strange when a country outside the United States can impose its will inside the United States and take billions of dollars in spite of the U.S. Administration. This is very strange, and it is not easy for anyone to accept. The United States is now playing the mediator's role to achieve peace. As I have said, this role is in line with the American people's desire and interests. When billions of dollars are given to house Jewish immigrants, then what can the American mediator say to make us welcome the peace plan the U.S. Administration advocates?

[Sawyer] Congress also represents the American people's interests. But allow me to ask if you can describe President Bush in one sentence. What do you think of him?

[Al-Asad] We feel he is interested in achieving peace, and is seriously trying to express that interest. By so doing, he is doing a service to the people of the United States, as well as the people of the region. In my view, Israel in particular is the party to benefit most from President Bush's peace efforts.

[Sawyer] Has President Bush promised you to apply pressure on Israel to return the Golan Heights? I know that he told you that he does not recognize Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. But has he promised to pressure Israel?

[Al-Asad] It is not only President Bush who talks about the Golan Heights as Syrian territory. Consecutive U.S. administrations have always stressed this position. President Bush is committed to the U.S. position on the Golan Heights and the occupied territories in general. In any case, I do not think there is anyone in the United States who can live with the illusion that peace between Arabs and Israel can be achieved if the occupation of the Arab territories is not terminated.

[Sawyer] I will try one more time to ask if he promised you to apply pressure.

[Al-Asad] No, he did not. What is important is for the United States to abide by its positions on the UN resolutions. But, of course, President Bush and the Israelis, and everyone else who has dealt with us, know that no peace can be achieved if the Arab territories occupied by Israel are not returned.

[Sawyer] As you know, President Carter, President Nixon, and Dr. Kissinger have written much about you. They described you in various ways. They said you were a brilliant man. Dr. Kissinger said you are a first-class gambler. President Nixon said you are a genius. I wonder, which of these descriptions do you approve of; for example, foxy, brilliant, or genius?

[Al-Asad] I respect them all, whether I have agreed or differed with them in the past. I am none of the things you have said. I am an ordinary person, defending the interests of the people, whom I lead, and of the nation, to which I belong. I adhere to our rights, no more, no less. I defend them as hard as I can. I defend peace as strongly as I can. But peace for me and for us in this country and region means a peace based on justice, or what we call a just peace. For peace to be just, everyone who has rights must enjoy those rights. I do my best to walk on the path of liberation and on the path of regaining all of our rights, and to maneuver, discuss things, and explain our cause and all other issues in a way that makes them clear to others and confirms that they are just. I stress that the justness of our cause, or showing the justness of our cause, does not require much intelligence or genius because it is clearly a just cause.

[Sawyer] Despite all terms used to describe you, it is being said that you, deep in your mind, believe that Israel must be destroyed. In this regard, it has been indicated that there is a painting in your reception hall depicting the Hittin battle and Saladin defeating the crusaders. This is as if you were telling the people: This is what will happen to Israel. Is this really what you believe in?

[Al-Asad] A discussion based on hypotheses cannot be a scientific one. The painting representing Saladin in his war against the crusades is something, and the Jews are something else. The Jews, as we know, had nothing to do with the crusades that took place in our region. We are now facing a reality. Israel attacked our Arab territories and displaced millions of our people, including Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese. The United Nations, which represents the world, has resolutions in this respect. We support these resolutions which were endorsed by the United Nations and approved by the United States. I do not believe anyone has the right to tell us: You have such and such intentions. We are talking about matters that are present before us: resolutions issued by the international community. I reiterate, this includes the United States. We say that these resolutions which deal with peace and the basis of peace are just resolutions. We support the implementation of these resolutions. Is this a wrong Arab position? Or is it the Israeli refusal to abide by these resolutions?

The United States, and every official in the United States, must push Israel to get these resolutions implemented. When it fails to do so, it will become crystal clear that Israel does not want peace. Of course, in our view, we believe that Israel does not want peace. Therefore, it has rejected the U.S. initiative or plan from the moment it was declared. It sent a written message in this respect to the U.S. Administration. The rejection is clear and unambiguous. It refuses to implement UN resolutions and refuses to return the territories it occupied.

Consequently, it rejects peace. Is it admissible, then, for anyone in the United States to encourage this Israeli position? Does anyone in the United States—an official or an ordinary citizen—have an interest in continued wars in this region? I do not believe so.

[Sawyer] Allow me to ask a question whose answer requires only one word. Deep in your soul, heart, do you want to see Israel destroyed?

[Al-Asad] This is not my concern. I want peace. If Israel believes that peace will lead to its destruction, then that is Israel's problem. But, as for us, we want peace. Peace is one thing, destruction is another. I say this because there are Israeli officials who at this stage say that the peace conference or Israel's participation in the peace conference will destroy Israel, will terminate the State of Israel. This means that they believe that peace destroys them. We want peace, whether it destroys them or not—as they say and believe. From our point of view, they are to benefit the most from peace. Peace does not destroy; it builds. I seek peace, not destruction.

[Sawyer] Allow me to ask a question that all Americans would like to hear your answer to. I am aware of your denial that Syria had no role in blowing up the Marines' quarters in Lebanon, and I know that you have said that there is no proof that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], whose main headquarters are in Syria, had any role in blowing up Pan Am Flight 103. The question that I want to ask is: What kind of assurances can you give to Americans that if they take a plane, no group present here, in this country, whether the PFLP-GC, the Red Brigades, or any Kurdish group, will plant a bomb in the plane they take, which would place innocent lives at risk?

[Al-Asad] We will finish our answer to the previous question by saying that Syria seeks peace and not destruction. He who seeks peace cannot be described as seeking destruction. As for the American plane that was blown up in Europe, there is no proof that any faction residing in Syria had any connection with the incident. Moreover, to the best of our knowledge, it has been proven that no one residing in Syria has any connection with the incident. We and U.S. officials have argued about and discussed the matter several times. We have stressed in the past, and we always stress, that any such operation originating in Syria will be severely punished, especially since an action of this type is a terrorist action that must not go unpunished, that must not go without strong and severe punishment. Had we believed that anyone in Syria was involved in the incident, we would not have waited for anyone to tell us that the crime had been perpetrated by this or that group, or that there was proof of the groups' involvement. We would have taken action. As I said, even in Europe or America, the PFLP-GC, which you named in your question, is ruled out. Of course, there are no guarantees that any state can give—neither Syria, nor the United States, nor the European states—on such matters. However, I believe that officials in all states have a sense of responsibility toward preventing terrorist actions, because they do not serve any just cause. Terrorism never serves a just cause. On the contrary, it harms and damages just causes. We have always declared and stressed that we have fought, and will fight, any terrorist action that we can fight. If each state in the world fights terrorism, terrorism undoubtedly will retreat. I believe that terrorism has recently receded to a large extent.

[Sawyer] But the United States still puts you on the list of states that support terrorism.

[Al-Asad] From our viewpoint, it has no justification for this. They could not give us, and we insisted that they do so, a single piece of evidence for what they say. They have so far not been able to do so, and they will not be able to do so in the future. Despite this, why do they talk about it? They have the answer. Why do they do so? They have the answer. Of course, we also have an answer, but we do not want to answer on their behalf.

[Sawyer] You followed the coup in the Soviet Union. Would you like to see President Gorbachev ousted by a military regime?

[Al-Asad] No, we do not want this. From the beginning, in a statement, we said that this was an internal Soviet affair.

[Sawyer] Allow me to ask a question that so many people have asked me to put to you. Are you not worried about what has happened in the world in the last two years—for example, the fall of totalitarian regimes—and now as you see the spread of democracy around you and in the world?

[Al-Asad] Never. I have no such ideas at all because I have not imitated others. Nor have we in Syria imitated the examples you have referred to. In everything we do on the political, social, and economic level, we take into account our country's conditions, the phases of development we pass through, and the multifaceted resources that may or may not exist in our country, and we improve our circumstances through democratic methods as we see them. In our country we have all the ingredients for democracy as we see it. In the United States there are two parties, but we now have seven. We have not assembled those parties. They were here before I came to power. Since my student days, I have belonged to one of these parties. Before I came to the top office, I was a student struggling within the ranks of these parties. This has continued during various phases of my life until now, just as with hundreds of thousands of Syrians affiliated to those parties.

We have parties with different ideas, but we have common denominators. We hold free elections in our country. In the latest elections, hundreds of Arab and foreign journalists traveled throughout Syria to see the election campaigns for the Syrian People's Council; that is, the Syrian parliament. Our legislative branch plays its role in full, and so does the executive branch. In each Syrian governorate, we have an elected council that

directs the day to day affairs of that governorate. You are now in Damascus. In Damascus Governorate, there is a council elected by Damascus residents. The council is elected once every four years, and, according to the law, Damascus residents can dismiss the entire council or some of its members any time they want, even before the end of the four-year term. They deal with this council on a daily basis.

That is not all. We have councils for the smaller Syrian cities and villages. For every community in Syria, there is an elected council, with which the people deal and which deals with the people, and which is changed or amended according to the wishes of the citizens. Therefore, I think that many people in or outside the region are either nonobjective for some reason or another—which means they are not talking logic, and are partial and subjective—or are unaware of what exists in our country. The People's Council, for example, is not made up of a single party or of parties alone. It is made up of the seven different parties; the popular organizations; the engineers, doctors, workers, and peasant associations; and independents. Although there are seven parties and a number of popular organizations, one third of the Syrian People's Council members are independents who do not belong to any organization.

Therefore, we can say that, if it really exists, the democracy which you said is spreading around us does not in fact spread around us, but is a reflection of what emanated from our country. Some of our parties are over 70 years old, and the newest is 30 years old.

[Sawyer] You do not want me to think that you are not a president who orders everything in this country.

[Al-Asad] Of course I am not a president who orders everything. As regards decisionmaking, we in Syria have the institutions to discuss every decision. They are more than any other institutions that discuss decisions in many countries of the world. If you would like to know more, I can help you to go see some of the institutions, starting with the Council of Ministers, and you can ask how these institutions make decisions without going back to the head of state.

Of course, in Syria we do not have a Zionist lobby that can impose, or try to impose, its decision on Syrian institutions or the Syrian head of state as the Jewish lobby and some of Israel's friends are trying to do now in the United States. We have Jewish citizens here. They act as citizens, and not as a lobby serving another country.

[Sawyer] The Americans have been hearing many comparisons. Would you please explain what is the biggest difference between you and Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Asad] I know of nothing between me and him but dissimilarity —I mean we have nothing in common. We have nothing in common. Can you give me one example? For example, do I attack neighbors? Do I fight haphazardly? On the contrary, I defend our Arab brethren. Lebanon was crippled and we managed to help it stand on its feet.

[Sawyer] But some people say you are a tactician, more clever than he is.

[Al-Asad] Supposing this to be true, where is the responsibility here?

[Sawyer] When you concluded the al-Ta'if agreement, you said you would withdraw at a certain stage. Was not this the case?

[Al-Asad] Yes. The al-Ta'if declaration itself organizes the relationship between Lebanon and Syria and specifies how and when Syrian forces pull out. Generally, the Lebanese still want Syrian forces on their territory.

[Sawyer] But when will that pullout take place?

[Al-Asad] This is subject to Lebanese-Syrian needs. This is specified by the same agreement—the al-Ta'if agreement. We are committed to this agreement. The Lebanese need this presence.

[Sawyer] Your Excellency the President, Syria has been working on the hostage issue for a long time. Do you believe that within two weeks all Western hostages will be freed?

[Al-Asad] As it is known, we have indeed made many and major efforts on behalf of the hostages. We have managed to help a large number of them. We have even made sacrifices, we have even sacrificed some of our own soldiers, to save these hostages. We will continue to do what we can for them. We think things are getting better now. However, naturally, it is not possible to specify a date. However, I say things are moving toward the better, and we will continue to make efforts.

[Sawyer] There is a proverb that captivates man. It says: Do you want the grapes, or do you want to fight the watchman? Regarding the peace process, what are the grapes that you believe the United States and Syria will give each other?

[Al-Asad] It is the achievement of peace. Peace is a need for America, Syria, the Arabs, and the Israelis. All stand to gain. These are the grapes.

[Sawyer] Someone in New York asked me to ask you the following question: Why do you not do what al-Sadat did? Why do you not go to Israel to say: Let us have it settled?

[Al-Asad] Tell this person it is not in my nature to do such a thing. Peace is not begging. Peace is truth. It is truth, and we have every right to demand it. Peace is not to be granted. I am not at all one of those who go to Israel to bring back peace. Peace is to be established by all. Everyone takes from and benefits from peace.

[Sawyer] Then why do you not invite the other party to come here?

[Al-Asad] This will not achieve peace. It will certainly not achieve peace. Peace is what we are trying to achieve. Peace is a very big process. It deserves and even requires participation by the world community to have a real, stable peace that can survive. Peace also has to be collective. This shows our seriousness about achieving peace.

[Sawyer] Mr. President, you were a pilot. You have won many prizes in air acrobatics, and you had to make many landings, some of which may have been emergency ones. In your view, which is more difficult: to be a pilot flying through the air, or a head of state in the Middle East?

[Al-Asad] Naturally, as regards difficulty, it is always more difficult when you have a greater responsibility. Every mission has its own responsibilities and difficulties. But what is important is that one must respond to the responsibilities one shoulders at any stage.

[Sawyer] On the eve of the peace conference, what would you like to say to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in one sentence?

[Al-Asad] I want to tell the world, and not only a particular person, that everyone has an interest in peace, including the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, the other countries in the world, the Arabs, and the Israelis. It is natural for everyone to seek that peace, which achieves the interests of all. No one, regardless of his position or location, would benefit from obstructing peace. I say this to some people in the United States and elsewhere: Syria is serious about working for peace.

[Sawyer] Thank you Mr. President. Thank you very much.

[Al-Asad] Thank you, and welcome again.

Kuwait's Jabir Thanks al-Asad for Support

JN1909185991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah held a meeting at the People's Palace, following the Kuwaiti amir's arrival in Damascus today. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt with the situation and developments in the region and the Gulf. The Kuwaiti amir expressed Syria's appreciation for Syria's and the president's stands during the Gulf crisis. He also expressed the appreciation of the fraternal people of Kuwait for what Syria offered for the liberation of Kuwait and for its support for the Kuwaitis during their ordeal.

The president thanked the amir for the Kuwaitis' feelings toward Syria, affirming that Syria is committed to its nation's issues under all circumstances.

Amir Leaves Following Talks

JN1909184191 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, left Damascus at 1630 today. When the motorcade of President al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh Jabir arrived at the airport, his highness the shaykh shook hands with those who bid him farewell, including the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, the governors of the Province of Damascus Rural Area and the City of Damascus, and the staff of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Activities in Baghlan, Gardeyz Reported

Kabul Attack on Baghlan Repulsed

BK1909103391 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 19 Sep 91 p 9

[Text] Peshawar, Sept 18—Afghan Mojahedin pushed back the regime's attack while launching fresh offensive over the Mojahedin's positions which were captured by Mojahedin in the old city of Baghlan, recently.

As a result, five Kalashnikovs, one rocket, along with a huge quantity of ammunition were seized. Commander Abdul Hai Haqjo through a wireless message informed MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] that Mojahedin also killed 29 militiamen and soldiers while injured several others and set on fire three tanks, on Sept 16.

According to details, MIDIA learnt that three Mojahids were martyred, a number of the houses were destroyed and harvest crops became useless after being set on fire due to regime's bombing and launching of artillery attacks over the Mojahedin's positions and residential areas in the said position.

A conflict took place between the two notorious groups leading by Pahlawan Rasul and Wakil Habibollah over the distribution of looted goods from locals in Dewlatabad District of Faryab Province, on Sept 10-12.

As a result, 25 militiamen who belong to Rasul's group and 15 others from Wakil Habibollah's group were killed.

Commander Mawlawi Amanollah through a wireless message informed MIDIA that a number of houses were destroyed and a huge quantity of the looted goods were smashed.

According to another report MIDIA received, 10 militiamen were killed and number of their houses were destroyed after a conflict erupted between the two militia's groups Achekzai and Musazai in Ghowrach District of Badghis Province on Sept 11.

Massive goods were stolen from both sides in the said district, and fighting is still going on, the report added.

According to reliable sources, MIDIA learnt that the Mojahedin under command of Saifuddin launched operation over the regime's posts in Banghlanak area of Kholm District in Samangan Province, on Sept 13. As a result, 15 soldiers were killed, while three others sustained injuries.

The report added that the Mojahedin also distroyed a military post and set ablaze three tanks during the operation. Two mojahids were martyred, three others injured.

According to another report, MIDIA learnt that Mojahedin captured five soldiers including an officer after an ambush over the regime forces in the northern part of Aybak city, the capital of the said province, on Sept 15.

Mojahedin also impounded one jeep in the said attack.

The report added that five soldiers were killed and one tank was destroyed while the Mojahedin of Martyr Ustad Hassan's Front launched offensive over the security posts of Aybak city, the capital of the said province, on Sept 11. MIDIA learnt details through commander Abdol Baqi that regime bombed Taloqan city, the capital of Takhar Province, on Sept 13. As a result, on Mojahid was injured and several houses were destroyed.

The Mojahedin after launching attacks over the regime forces in Shindand District of Farah Province, on Sept 15, compelled the militia commander Col. Mohammad Rasul to surrender alongwith a group of militiamen.

Commander general Ismail Khan informed MIDIA office in Quetta that a mortar, a rocket, a jeep, a PK [expansion unknown] machine gun and two wireless sets alongwith a huge quantity of ammunitions and logistics impounded by the Mojahedin during these operations.

Similarly Mojahedin killed a number of militiamen and soldiers after capturing a post on the highway of Islam Qala in Herat Province, recently.

Mojahedin also impounded a large number of arms and ammunition along with a military vehicle. The report added that three militiamen were killed and a number of other sustained injuries after Mojahedin launched offensives over the regime forces in Zendeh Jan District of Herat Provinces on Sept 15.

A military vehicle was also set ablaze.

Mojahedin shot down a regime's warplane while it was bombing over the Mojahedin's positions around the Gardeyz city, the capital of Paktia, on Sept 14.

Commander Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani's representative reported to MIDIA that the warplane was shot down in an area named Wochah Kanda, located between Logar and Gardeyz. The crew of the Plane was also killed.

Mojahedin under commander Malem Fida Mohammad launched operations over the regime's border regiment posts in Qandahar, on Sept 14.

As a result, several militiamen and soldiers were killed, while some military posts were destroyed besides inflicting heavy financial losses to the regime forces.

Thirteen Killed in Gardeyz Attack

BK1909153791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1516 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 19 (AFP)—The Afghan mojahedin have launched an attack on the eastern city of Gardeyz killing 13 government personnel and destroying

military installations, the rebel AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) reported Thursday.

It said an artillery duel started Wednesday and continued Thursday.

Gardeyz, the capital of eastern Paktia Province, is known as a gateway to Kabul.

The garrison city has remained a mojahedin guerrilla target since the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan in February 1989 after more than nine years of military occupation.

The rebels scored a moral boosting victory in the region when the nearby garrison town of Khost fell to the resistance on March 31.

It was not immediately clear if Wednesday's attack was the major offensive the mojahedin have reportedly been planning for the past few weeks or a routine harrassment of the garrison.

ANA, considered close to hardline resistance leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami faction, claimed the resistance recently moved military hardware, including tanks and heavy cannons, along the Kabul-Gardeyz highway.

It said 13 government soldiers were killed in the fighting in the past 24 hours, adding four military vehicles were destroyed together with a BM-41 rocket battery.

To intensify pressure, the agency said, mojahedin gunners simultaneously pounded a section of the highway inflicting casualties.

Bangladesh

New Cabinet Ministers Sworn In 19 Sep

BK1909163091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] A new cabinet under parliamentary system of government has been sworn in. The cabinet headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has 22 ministers, 15 state ministers, and three deputy ministers. Their oath of office was administered by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at a simple ceremony at Bangabhavan [president house] this afternoon. The ministers and their portfolios are:

—Prime minister, defense, establishment and cabinet division;
—Mirza Gholam Hafiz, law and justice;
—Majedul Haq, agriculture, irrigation, water development and flood control;
—A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, foreign affairs;
—Saifur Rahman, finance;
—Abdus Salam Talukder, local government, rural development and cooperatives;
—Oli Ahmed, communications;
—Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, health and family welfare;
—Shamsul Islam Khan, industries;
—M. Keramat Ali, post and telecommunications;
—M.K. Anwar, commerce;
—Tariqul Islam, social welfare and women's affairs;
—Shamsul Islam, food;
—Najmul Huda, information;
—Abdul Matin Chowdhury, home ministry;
—Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, energy and mineral resources;
—Rafiqul Islam Mian, works;
—Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, labor and manpower;
—Zamiruddin Sirkar, education;
—Abdullah Al-Noman, environment, forest, fisheries and livestock;
—Hannan Shah, jute; and
—Zahiruddin Khan, planning.

The state ministers and their portfolios are:

—Professor Yunus Khan, education;
—Kabir Hossain, land;
—Mujibur Rahman, finance;
—Sadeq Hossain Khoka, youth and sports;
—Professor Abdul Mannan, religion;
—Mohammad Nurul Huda, establishment;
—Major retired M.A. Mannan, textiles;
—Abdul Mannan, civil aviation and tourism;
—Lutfur Rahman Khan, relief;
—Professor Jahanara Begum, cultural affairs;
—Sarwari Begum, social welfare and women's affairs;
—Harunur Rashid, shipping;
—Fazlur Rahman Patal, communications;
—Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, irrigation and flood control; and
—Babu Gaheswar Roy, environment, forest, fisheries and livestock.

The three deputy ministers with their portfolios are:
—Abdul Hai, local government, rural development and cooperatives;
—A.B.M. Zahidul Haq, law and justice; and
—Sirajul Haq, health and family welfare.

Our political correspondent says with the swearing in of the new cabinet, the parliamentary form of government comes into effect after 16 years of presidential system. The new cabinet will be answerable to parliament and the prime minister will be the chief executive.

Earlier, Council of Ministers submitted their resignation to the acting president. Accepting the resignation, the acting president requested Begum Zia to form a new cabinet. The swearing in ceremony of the new cabinet was attended by members of parliament, high civil and military officials, diplomats, journalists, and other elites.

Talking to newsmen shortly after taking oath as prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia said her government would give top priority to meeting the basic needs of the people. The government wants to establish an administration free from corruption, so that it can really serve

the people and ensure their basic rights. Begum Zia congratulated the people for restoring parliamentary form of government after a long struggle. She sought cooperation of all to make the present system a permanent one. Later, Begum Khaleda Zia visited the central Shahid Minar in the capital and the Sriti Shoudha [martyrs memorials] at Sawar to pay her respects to the martyrs of language movement and the liberation war. Begum Zia was accompanied by ministers. Begum Zia also visited the mazar [tomb] of her late husband, President Ziaur Rahman, at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. She placed a wreath and offered fateha [prayers] there.

Presidential Election Scheduled for 8 Oct

BK1909154491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The presidential election will be held on the eighth of next month. According to the schedule announced by the Election Commission, nomination papers are to be filed with the chief elections commissioner on the 25th of this month. The nomination papers will be examined the next day. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is the 30th of this month. The members of the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] will elect the president. The chief election commissioner will conduct the election.

India

U.S. Decision on Pressler Amendment Welcomed

BK1909150491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] India has welcomed the decision of the U.S. Congress to drop the move to bring India within the ambit of the Pressler Amendment. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that it is a matter of satisfaction that attempts to equate the nuclear programs of India and Pakistan have been given up by the U.S. Congress.

President Seeks To Resolve PRC Issues Fairly

BK1909125091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has said that India desires to resolve all outstanding issues with China, including the border question, in a fair and reasonable manner. He said India is looking forward to the forthcoming visit of the Chinese prime minister to New Delhi and hoped that it will be an important landmark in bilateral relations.

The president was welcoming the new Chinese ambassador, Mr. Cheng Ruisheng, who presented his credentials to him in the Rashpatrapati Bhavan [president's house] today. Ambassador Cheng said that the Chinese Government is committed to improving and develop its relations with India.

Firm Position on Trade Urged at Uruguay Round

BK1909153491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] More than 250 members of parliament [MP's] and other prominent citizens have urged the government to take firm stand at the Uruguay round of multilateral trade and tariff negotiations to protect the country's interests. In a joint statement, they said this is necessary in view of the pressures from the developed market economies for a new patent regime through GATT and the Special 301 provisions of the United States.

The MP's who signed the statement belong to the Congress-I, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Janata Dal, Telugu Desam, left parties, SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] and the Congress-S.

Clash at Kashmir Border Reported

BK2009013491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Indian troops have thwarted an unsuccessful attempt by a 100 Pakistanis yesterday to raid and capture a post in the Keran sector of the line of actual control. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the Indian soldiers inflicted heavy casualties on the Pakistani side who attacked under the cover of heavy artillery from across the line of actual control. He said the Pakistanis among whom some were in civilian clothes tried to cut the telephone lines linking the Indian post with the adjoining one. Six bodies of the Pak raiders were found lying in the vicinity of the post, and some more have been spotted in the minefields around it. The spokesman said a joint commanding officer and five jawans [soldiers] from the Indian side were killed in the action.

Further on Clash

BK1909163691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1630 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 19 (AFP)—Indian and Pakistani troops fought a pitched battle on the Kashmir frontier Thursday, leaving at least six soldiers dead on each side, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The news agency said the fighting erupted in Kashmir state's Kheran sector when more than 100 Pakistani soldiers raided an Indian Army post "under the cover of heavy artillery fire."

An official spokesman was quoted as saying that bodies of six Pakistani troops in civilian clothing were seen near the post, while the Indian Army lost a junior commissioned officer and five soldiers.

The spokesman said some more bodies of Pakistani soldiers were seen "in the mine fields" near the border.

PTI said the Pakistani troops tried to cut the telephone lines in the Indian post.

"The raiders were beaten back by our troops, who inflicted heavy casualties on them," the Indian spokesman added.

Skirmishes between the Indian and Pakistani Armies are frequent on the border of Kashmir, which is disputed by the two South Asian neighbours and over which they have fought two of their three wars since 1947.

The Indian military command said six Pakistani soldiers were killed in clashes with Indian troops late last month along the Kashmir frontier, known as the Line of Actual Control.

New Delhi has previously accused the Pakistani Army of attempting to help Muslim militants infiltrate into the Indian-held Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and harbouring Muslim rebels fighting to secede Kashmir.

Pakistan controls the northern third of Kashmir.

Muslims Demonstrate at Pakistani Embassy 19 Sep

BK1909151191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] A large number of people belonging to Shia Panch, an Islamic social organization, held a demonstration in front of the Pakistani embassy in New Delhi today. The slogan-shouting demonstrators carrying placards and banners denounced the Nawaz Sharif government in Pakistan for spreading terrorism in Punjab, Kashmir, and Assam and for providing terrorists with arms. The agitators later submitted a memorandum to the embassy officials.

Kidnapped Army Officer in Kashmir Killed

BK1909160291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] It has been officially confirmed that militants killed a kidnapped army officer and his cousin in the Kashmir valley. The incident took place yesterday in Baramula District when militants kidnapped Lieutenant General G.S. Bali and his cousin who had gone there to attend a family function. The kidnappers opened fire after being challenged by the security forces and killed both the hostages. During the ensuing encounter, five militants and two security personnel were killed.

Two Dead in Uttar Pradesh 'Powerful' Blast

BK1909161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, two persons, including an old woman, were killed and 21 others injured in a powerful bomb blast in Prabhat Market of Nainital District. The injured have been admitted to hospital.

An official spokesman said in Lucknow that the blast could be a terrrorist act.

Hindu Group Plans Campaign Against Shrine Bill

BK2009023291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0130 GMT 20 Sep 91

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 20 (AFP)—Hindu militants are preparing to launch a potentially explosive campaign across India against legislation seeking to end their claims to hundreds of Muslim shrines.

The powerful Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, or World Hindu Council) has said it will take to the streets from next month to protest the bill, which has been welcomed by India's media and almost all political parties.

"This bill is against Hindu interests. It is a black law," said Acharya Giriraj Kishore, the VHP's number two. "It is a sheer appeasement of the Muslim community."

Kishore, 70, said that from October 2 thousands of VHP activists would stage more than 5,000 protest rallies, where they would burn copies of the bill, and that they would greet MPs who voted for it in parliament with black flags in their constituencies.

"We are determined to oppose the bill tooth and nail whatever the consequences," said Kishore in an interview, accusing the Indian Government of "driving Hindus towards anarchy."

India's parliament last week passed the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Bill, freezing the status of religious shrines in the country as they were on August 15, 1947—the date of India's independence.

Under the legislation, violators can be jailed for up to three years or fined, and legislators, including MPs, opposing the bill can be disqualified.

The only shrine excluded from the bill's purview is in Ayodhya town, where the VHP has laid claim to a 16th century mosque which it alleges Muslims built on the birthsite of the Hindu God Rama after demolishing a temple to him. The case dealing with the dispute over the Ayodhya shrine is pending before a court.

Security forces shot dead 24 people in October and November 1990 when frenzied Hindus stormed the shrine in a bid to demolish it, bringing to a climax a VHP campaign which has left hundreds dead in rioting between Hindus and Muslims.

The Ayodhya campaign played a key role in helping the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win 117 seats in the federal parliament in its best-ever election performance in the polls this summer.

The campaign catapulted the BJP, or Indian People's Party, to power in the northern province of Uttar Pradesh—home to the Ayodhya shrine and two other cites where the VHP claims two major mosques.

BJP politician's noisily rejected the shrines' bill, almost coming to blows with centrist and leftwing opposition MPs.

The BJP leader, Lal Krishna Advani, said, "My party cannot associate with this legislation," a statement one Hindu MP supported by tearing up a copy of the bill before storming out.

Kishore said he was hopeful that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh would "remove all hurdles" in the way of temple construction in Ayodhya, Varanasi and Mathura—all riverside Hindu pilgrimage centres. He added that the new legislation would be no obstacle to the VHP, which has reputedly collected millions of rupees and is buying all the land near the disputed Ayodhya site for a grandiose Rama temple.

"So many laws are broken in this country," Kishore said with passion. "Hindus will not yield an inch. The temple will be built. Work (on it) will begin soon."

"After Ayodhya, we will fight for Kashi (Varanasi) and Mathura," he added.

The VHP has compiled a list of some 3,000 other shrines on sites where it says were Hindu temples were demolished and converted into mosques during India's Islamic era. The group wants the alleged original temple status to be restored to all of them.

Sources say the government would be happy if Muslim groups reached a settlement with the VHP over Ayodhya, so that the latter would stop questioning the legality of other mosques.

Hindus form more than 80 percent of constitutionally secular India's 850 million population, while Muslims number about 100 million and constitute the largest religious minority.

Hindu groups which have traditionally remained on the fringe of India's polity have gained mass support in recent years and the legislation on shrines predictably received widespread support across the country.

"The bill has been very necessary to close firmly the door on any future controversies over places of worship and remove one of the major causes of communal discord," the widely read INDIAN EXPRESS newspaper said last week.

The bill is an "attempt to provide a healthy environment in this country," said THE HINDU daily, reflecting the feelings in most Indian political parties, almost all of which are controlled by Hindus.

Ahmed Bukhari, deputy priest of the historic Jama Masjid mosque, said, "The Indian Muslim has won his case on the floor of parliament."

However, the VHP's belligerence has raised fears of renewed Hindu-Muslim bloodletting, and at least one columnist known for his pro-VHP views said that the bill itself could not guarantee communal amity.

"Only a Muslim gesture in Ayodhya may restore the imbalance and, hopefully, pave the way for a historic concordant," Swapan Dasgupta said.

Eighth Plan Detailed; Public Sector Under Scrutiny

BK1909164691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The eighth plan envisages an annual growth rate of 5.6 percent with a three-pronged approach by identifying clearcut priority sectors, resource mobilization, and appropriate delivery systems. Releasing the directional paper for the plan in New Delhi today, the deputy chairman of the planning commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said that the 5.6 percent growth scenario was chosen as against the six percent alternative since the commission felt that setting a lower target can help optimum utilization of resources and better prospects for its achievement. He said the total plan outlay has been fixed at 792,000 crore rupees out of which public sector investment will be 342,000 crore rupees. Mr. Mukherjee said the level of deficit financing will be kept to 1.4 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product] and inflation rate will be brought down within 18 to 20 months.

Talking to newsmen later, Mr. Mukherjee said that a committee has been set up under his chairmanship to examine provisions of the revised Gadgil formula for distribution of central assistance to the states.

The planning commission is to undertake detailed scrutiny of public sector undertakings sectorwise and unitwise, if necessary, both at the state and central levels for improving their efficiency. This follows the direction given by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, while presiding over the meeting of the reconstituted planning commission in New Delhi today. Mr. Rao observed that efforts should be made to reconcile the requirements of environmental protection and development.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Protests Turkish Statements

NC2009053791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] In protest against the remarks by the Turkish defense minister, the Islamic Republic of Iran summoned the Turkish ambassador to the Foreign Ministry last night. The Turkish defense minister claimed that forces opposing the Turkish Government escaped into the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that fire was opened on Turkish security forces from an Iranian border post.

In his discussions with the Turkish ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, protested against these remarks. He

denied the allegations and requested that these allegations be studied at the two countries' joint border committee. He added: We continue to believe that within the context of its policy of spreading discord in this sensitive area, the United States plays the major role in the concoction of such incorrect ideas.

The Turkish ambassador also denied any type of shooting from an Iranian border post at Turkish forces and said: The Turkish Government fully agrees that such issues should be studied in the joint border committee of the two countries. He expressed hopes that on the basis of common policies, relations between Iran and Turkey will expand daily.

Primakov Interviewed Before Departure

LD1909173791 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 19, IRNA—Soviet president's special envoy Yevgeniy Primakov who was here at the head of a political-economic delegation on a two-day official visit left Tehran for Ankara Thursday morning. Primakov met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday and handed over a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He also held talks with several other officials including ministers of foreign affairs and economy and financial affairs.

Speaking to IRNA before departure, Primakov, who arrived in Tehran from Kuwait, said his meeting with President Rafsanjani was "fruitful" and "significant" adding that the two neighboring countries enjoy a bright prospect for future economic cooperation.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday Primakov visited the holy city of Qom where he held talks with prominent theologian Ayatollah 'Abdollah Javadi-Amoli. The ayatollah was the late Imam Khomeyni's special envoy to Moscow who handed over the imam's historical message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1988. Primakov and Ayatollah Javadi- Amoli discussed the latest developments in the Soviet Union and the positive impact of the late imam's letter on Soviet developments.

Wishing success for the Soviet Government and nation, the ayatollah expressed hope that the Soviet authorities will create favorable grounds for economic growth and further democratization.

Stressing that Iran favors peaceful coexistence and good-neighborly relations with the Soviet people and government, the ayatollah referred to the positive impact of the imam's letter and said that the Soviet authorities should keep in mind that treading on the path of Western capitalism, the American brand in particular, will end in more regrettable results for the Soviet Union. Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli also cautioned the Soviet leaders against American efforts within the framework of the so-called new world order and warned them to beware of the U.S. domination-seeking efforts.

Stressing that the Soviet reforms are inalterable, Primakov asserted that under the present condition Moscow is determined to continue to play its role in all international forums. He described as "excellent" Tehran-Moscow relations adding that the central government pays special attention to the rights of the Soviet Muslims and that it is taking steps to meet their demands.

While in Qom, Primakov and his entourage also met with the city's governor, paid homage to the martyrs of the Islamic revolution and of the 1980-88 imposed war at Qom's cemetery and visited the residence of the late imam.

Speaking to IRNA in Qom, he described as positive his talks with the Iranian officials. He said that the Iranian move in welcoming the Soviet and the U.S. discontinuation of arms shipment to Afghanistan opens a new phase in settlement of the Afghan crisis. The Soviet official expressed hope that other countries will follow suit and thus help settle the crisis.

Khamene'i Reportedly Suffering From Cancer

NC1909122991 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] The doctor treating Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran is cited as having said Khamene'i's liver and bladder cancer is spreading, that foreign doctors have been asked to help and that in the near future, his condition will worsen. The same report states that Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is aware of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's illness, is trying to make arrangements through the Council of Experts to omit the title of leadership and supreme jurisconsult from the Islamic Republic's (?Constitution) and to acquire the rank of [word indistinct] and namely, the rank of commander in chief within his capacity as president.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD2009103591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] This week's Friday prayers were held all over the country in the most maginificent way on the threshold of Unity Week and the blessed birth anniversary of His Holiness Mohammed Mustafa, the esteemed prophet of Islam, peace be on him and his scion, and also on the threshold of Holy Defense Week.

Worshippers in Tehran gathered in massive numbers at the Friday prayer venue to hold the Friday prayers under the leadership of Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, a member of the Guardians Council.

In the sermons the acting Friday imam of Tehran offered his respects to the presence of the Lord of the Age, may God hasten his honorable appearance, and his congratulations to the leader of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation, and the world Islamic societies on the

occasion of the blessed birth anniversary of the honorable prophet and on the occasion of Unity Week.

Referring to Unity Week, he called on Muslims to be united in deed and in stance. He told them to form a united line against the conspiracies of global arrogance and maintain their vigil. He said it is imperative for Muslim societies to solve their differences at a time when America is bent on expanding her dominance over the world under the pretext of the new world order.

Continuing his remarks, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani was emphatic that the fruits of eight years of holy defense should be safeguarded and that the blood of the martyrs should be honored. He then reminded his audience of the Western cultural onslaught against the Islamic revolution and said that it is a fundamental imperative for the society to confront this plot and observe Islamic norms and essential principles.

He devoted the first prayer sermon to the individual's rights in an Islamic society as well as to the need to establish justice and beneficence.

In conclusion of the Friday prayer sermons, on the occasion of the start of the school year he enumerated the duties of pupils, students, and seminarians. Stressing that they have responsibilities toward Islamic society he said that future society will be based on the pillars of their thoughts, expertise, and commitment.

'Radical Resolution' of Hostage Issue Urged

LD1809183591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] A European parliamentary delegation this afternoon met with Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles. During the meeting, the deputy European Parliament vice president and head of the delegation, Joao Cavinho, praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance for Iraqi refugees, and expressed his concern about the situation of Iraqi refugees in the north and south of Iraq.

Stressing the continuation of Western aid for Iraqi refugees during the meeting, Mr. Karrubi stated that the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 is necessary to establish complete stability and security in the region. Mr. Karrubi stressed Iran's opposition to the phenomenon of hostage taking, and called for the radical resolution of this problem.

At the end of the meeting, he expressed hope that contacts between the European Parliament and the Majles expand.

European Parliamentary Delegation Meets Va'ezi

NC1709064991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] A European parliamentary delegation led by the parliament's deputy speaker has met Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Euro-American Affairs. During the meeting, Va'ezi expressed his appreciation of the European Economic Commission for its attention to the refugee issue. He termed the exchange of messages between European parliamentary officials and the Islamic Republic of Iran a positive step in the growth of reciprocal relations.

Va'ezi added: The Islamic Republic of Iran wants to establish a stable regional security system and has initiated earnest cooperation with regional countries. The European parliamentary delegation lauded the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts on the refugee issue and expressed its wish to expand relations with Iran.

During the meeting, the deputy speaker of the European Parliament said the condition of the people of Iraq—especially the Muslims in the southern regions—is extremely disturbing, stressing that international humanitarian responsibility demands greater attention to this issue.

President Says Revolution in 'Crucial Phase'

LD1509231391 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 15 Sep 91

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15 IRNA—In his message to a gathering of Iranian students in Europe Sunday, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Islam and the Islamic revolution were presently passing through a "crucial" phase. "Such a crucial situation warrants a feeling of responsibility on the part of committed forces," the message told the 26th meeting of Islamic Associations of Students in Europe, which opened in Germany Friday.

It said global arrogance's hasty attempts to dominate the region by taking advantage of the Persian Gulf war and pushing the issue of Palestine into an "unjust compromise," means that the world was now facing crucial conditions. Elsewhere in his message, the president described Iran as one of the "most important centers" feeding Islamic revolutionary forces and as an "irreconcilable backer" of the rights of the Palestinian people.

He said cutting down dependence on foreign made commodities was one of the conditions for a country's independence and its economic and scientific boom. "Today, all executive and production sectors (in Iran) are awaiting the return of our committed intellectuals with the highest academical record, in order to speed up the country's scientific and economic progress. "Despite the mischief of enemies, your brothers and sisters in faith are busy rebuilding Iran at an astonishing pace and making good on the past backwardness," the message said.

People Urged To Protest Destruction of Housing

NC1909145691 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Announcement by "Flag of Freedom Organization" on 19 September; place not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] O combatant compatriots, the people and youth of Iran whose solidarity and struggle have demonstrated that you have risen up and are determined to establish freedom and democracy throughout Iran—as you have in the past, you have shown your fervor and declared your presence on the scene. Once again, the Flag of Freedom Organization is asking all the nationalistic organizations, political organizations, traders, and bazaar merchants inside the country who wanted us to call on the people of Iran to protest the regime's continued killing and (?repression) to use their overt presence to demonstrate their solidarity with the families of those who were killed over the past few days and with the striking workers, and also to express their sympathy with the people whose homes have been destroyed by the government on the pretext of building parks and highways. On 20 September, from 1000 to 1200, they should leave their houses and go to the parks and squares—by car, any other form of transport, or on foot—and then they should proceed toward those areas where the regime has razed the houses of the oppressed people to the ground. You must thus display your solidarity with these tyrannized people.

All of us should come out of our homes on 19 September from 1000 to 1200—as we did on 5 August, the anniversary of the monarchy, and on 15, 22, and 29 August—and we should congregate in the squares, parks, and main areas of our cities, beside the houses and buildings that the regime has destroyed. [passage omitted]

Protestors Killed in Clashes With Regime

NC1809080991 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Sep 91

[Text] Reports indicate that the protest movement of the resisting people of [word indistinct] continues with marches and demonstrations in most of the nation's large cities. During the past 24 hours [words indistinct] have taken place in Mashhad, Tabriz, Reza'iyeh, Esfahan, Borujerd, and Najafabad. In the past few days, the regime's armed mercenaries and Guards of the regime have turned protests by the people of Robatkarim into bloodbaths, killing 12 and arresting large numbers in surrounding areas. Here is a report on the details of the bloody protest in Robatkarim:

On Thursday, 12 September, the Robatkarim governor, with the Friday imam's blessing, sent in a bulldozer to demolish 60 houses built around Khomeyni Square. The neighborhood was officially inaugurated last year with the governor, mayor, and Friday imam all present.

On the afternoon of September 12, the people whose houses were demolished on the pretext of constructing of a highway clashed with the hireling officials of the regime.

The next morning a crowd of more than 2,000 people armed with canes and spades, and shouting slogans against Khamene'i, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the cleric Sadeqzadeh, Friday imam of Robatkarim, marched to Friday prayers. Angry Robatkarim residents started beating a group of regime hirelings who fled from the scene, and set fire to the hirelings' base. The residents broke windows of the Robatkarim branch of the Bank-e Melli [National Bank] before burning the building and destroying a number of telephone booths.

Frightened by the commotion and the demonstrators' strongly-worded slogans, cleric Sadeqzadeh stopped his sermon and asked the people to observe the sanctity of the Friday prayers site. At the same time the agents started shooting. Angered, the people attacked armed hirelings with cudgels and spades. More than 15 demonstrators were killed in the shooting, many were injured, including cleric Sadqqzadeh who sustained a head injury before being helped to escape by his bodyguards.

It was later learned that law enforcement forces, acting on the orders of the commander of the Robatkarim Guards Corps, came to help the hirelings disperse the demonstrators who had been shouting: The mayor is our brother, the Guard is our enemy. O armed forces personnel, God be with you.

Most of the law enforcement forces were affected by the people's sentiments and did not intervene. One Hezbollah member, Sergeant First Class Azhar Ghanami, who was (?arguing) with his commander and opened fire on the demonstrators, was, however, killed in the people's attack.

The trouble escalated and at 1400 on Friday a number of Guards' units of the so-called anti-riot force came from Tehran to Robatkarim where they arrested dozens of people. The units remained in the square to make more arrests.

On the highway to Robatkarim a machine gun has been stationed on two cement poles and guards thoroughly check all vehicles. Captain Farhad Shahani, commander of Robatkarim Gendarmerie, is being detained in Tehran where he is being interrogated by regime intelligence and security officials.

In relation to the demonstrations, and in the shadow of the unrest of the beginning of the week, an emergency session of the Supreme National Security Council met on Sunday afternoon. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Guard Corps commanders, and law enforcement forces attended the meeting.

In anti-regime unrest in Najafabad, Esfahan, many demonstrators were injured, and one of the regime's agents, who was seriously injured by the people, died in the

hospital. Following fires in the bazaar and elsewhere, one silo in [placename indistinct] was destroyed and a storage container holding 4,000 tons of wheat was burned.

Unrest, Disturbances in Cities Reported

NC1909170491 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Certain reports have indicated that, despite the fact that the Supreme National Security Council has ordered that the people's demonstrations be ruthlessly suppressed, the popular protest movement has continued, becoming even (?more widespread) over the past 24 hours. Unrest and demonstrations against the regime are continuing with increasing intensity in the cities of Tehran, Esfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, Hamadan, Nowshahr, Chalus, Gorgan, and Khorasan.

The demonstrations have been characterized by the presence of groups of hundreds of people or a massive crowd. The protesters assailed the high prices and the shortages of essential goods, shouted slogans against the regime's officials, and called on all factory employees to join the nationwide workers' strike.

Another report indicates that clashes involving Kurdish and Baluchi refugees are continuing in Kordestan and Sistan va Baluchestan. In the clashes between Baluchi refugees and the regime's armed mercenaries, it has been reported that (?the clashes have enabled) the Baluchi combatants to take control of a large part of (Nurabad) Khash and Mirjaveh. The combatants and [words indistinct) have liberated traffic between Shahreza and (Kavejeh). Mirjaveh is a border city between Iran and Pakistan and has its own police and border checkpoints, which are currently under the armed Baluchi combatants' control.

To protest the arrests of some of Shahpur's traders and guild members, this city's storekeepers have also gone on strike and are calling for the release of their associates. The arrested persons had been distributing anti-regime statements. [passage omitted]

The deprived residents of Dezful—who lost everything in the war and are living in conditions of utter hardship, as is the case in all other warstricken areas—conducted protest marches and attacked several government buildings, shattering their windows.

It has been reported that workers' strikes are continuing in factories throughout the country; the workers of [words indistinct] factories in Hamadan, the Qazvin glass factory, the Kermanshah tire factory, and the Semnan textile factory have all gone on strike. Similarly, some factories have closed down due to the government's negligence regarding repayments of foreign exchange and the shortages of raw materials that have occurred because they were not ordered by the factory owners in Qom, (Kezhor) Qazvin, Rasht, Hamadan, Kermanshah, Esfahan, Shiraz, Lorestan, and Mashhad.

A massive fire has been reported on the seventh floor of the Finance and Economic Affairs building, which contains all the records of the Finance Ministry's direct and indirect (?dealings). All the ministry's financial files and original documents were destroyed in the blaze. The Zanjan fire brigade was completely paralyzed due to another fire, and many similar fires in government buildings and in some government officials' houses were reported. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Sharif To Attend Commonwealth Summit, Meet Rao

BK1909153891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will lead the Pakistan delegation at the Commonwealth summit beginning in Harare on 15 October. This was stated by Akram Zaki, secretary general of foreign affairs, in Islamabad today. He said a meeting between the prime ministers of Pakistan and India during the summit is being planned. Pakistan conveyed to India that the Kashmir dispute will be raised at the meeting.

Mr. Akram Zaki said some members of the British Parliament, who recently visited this part of the world, expressed the desire that the Commonwealth plays its role in the resolution of the India-Pakistan disputes, including the Kashmir problem.

Commonwealth Chief Meets President Ishaq Khan

BK1809140491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 18 Sep 91

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, said Pakistan would be taking an active part in the deliberations of the forthcoming summit conference of the Commonwealth states with a view to promote a mutual cooperation among member states. He was talking to the secretary general of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anuaokus, who called on him at Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] in Islamabad today. The president emphasized that the Commonwealth should take even greater interest in international economic issues, particularly the problems of the developing countries in order to adopt a common position particularly in matters such as [word indistinct] resource pool, external debt and for an equitable international trade (?regime).

The secretary general of the Commonwealth informed the president about the preparatory work being done for the forthcoming Commonwealth summit to be held in Harare next month.

Meets With Nawaz Sharif 19 Sep

BK1909064791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Emeka Anuaokus, secretary general of the Commonwealth, called on Prime Minister Mohammad

Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad last evening. He exchanged views with the prime minister on matters related to arrangements and preparations for the forthcoming summit conference of the heads of the Commonwealth countries' governments, which is going to be held in Harare from 15 October. The Commonwealth secretary general also exchanged views on the important matters to be discussed at the summit conference. Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will lead the Pakistani delegation to the Commonwealth summit conference. It is expected that the prime minister will effectively present the Third World's stand for good trade conditions and a new international economic order.

Pakistan says the Commonwealth has to play a role in the political settlement of regional disputes although these matters have not been included in the agenda so far. The prime minister apprised the Commonwealth secretary general of his efforts on disarmanent, the five countries' proposed conference on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia, and establishing an environment of peace and stability through talks with the Indian leaders. The secretary general told the prime minister that 10 world leaders, whose countries already enjoyed the hospitality of holding a Commonwealth summit conference in the past, prepared a document in which recommendations and opinions were expressed on the future role of the organization.

The Commonwealth secretary general also called on Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz in Islamabad. They discussed matters related to holding a conference of Commonwealth finance ministers and it is expected that the conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur soon. Sartaj Aziz told the secretary general that economic reforms implemented by the present government will help to further liberalize the Pakistani economy and to create a congenial environment for the private sector so that it can play a role in the country's collective economic development. The Commonwealth secretary general appreciated Pakistan's economic reforms and passed a resolution that the other member countries should learn from its experience in this field.

Kabul's Talks Offer Without Najibollah Welcome

BK1809142291 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 18 Sep 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Seeking Peace in Afghanistan"]

[Text] The Kabul regime's offer to participate in any future intra-Afghan dialogue without President Najibollah is a significant concession and ought to be seriously considered by the mojahedin groups as well as Islamabad. Though it does not imply that Najibollah has at long last signalled his willingness to step down in order to facilitate the conclusion of a comprehensive political settlement, it does indicate a greater than ever urge for a compromise. Notwithstanding pronounced divergence in the political perceptions of the rival Afghan camps and their mutually exclusive positions on the transitional power-sharing arrangement, a major roadblock to the initiation of direct talks between the warring parties has been cleared. And it is perhaps for the first time since the hostilities began that there exists a real opportunity for all Afghan factions, no matter on which side of the fence they are, to sit together and explore the possibilities of a grand Afghan national reconciliation. Hawks among the mojahedin may take it as a sign of Kabul regime's weakness and insist on going the whole hog to dislodge from power the man with whom they refuse to have any truck. Ostensibly, there is some logic in pushing the military solution at a time when the Kabul regime, abandoned by Moscow to face the music all by itself, is likely to suffer a credibility crisis plus an all-time low morale.

Fighting a war, however, is a serious business and notions of the enemy's weaknesses, whether real or imagined, alone cannot clinch the issue. Given the mojahedin's own track-record on the battlefield, a quick military solution is anyway ruled out, and a long protracted war, that is if the mojahedin are assured of continued arms supplies, would mean an indefinite period of uncertainty, strife and bloodshed. The choice between war and peace has to be made now and Islamabad must take the lead to pave the way for the beginning of direct talks between the parties directly involved in the conflict. To make virtue out of necessity, the negative symmetry accord should be accepted in good grace as a dictate of history and efforts be made to extend its scope to all other external benefactors of one or the other Afghan faction. Let the Afghan conflict be entirely internalised, before other foreign powers, such as India, are tempted to intervene in the vacuum created by the disengagement of superpowers. Foreign intervention was the root-cause of Afghan conflict and if an opportunity has arisen that the Afghan people could be left alone without any distant godfathers pulling their strings, it should be wholeheartedly welcomed. They should be enabled to sort out their differences amongst themselves and move towards national reconciliation—which is the only guarantee for durable peace in Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Admits Troops Fought Beside LTTE

BK1909134891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1217 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 19 (AFP)—Beleagured President Ranasinghe Premadasa has belatedly admitted that security forces fought alongside Tamil guerrillas against a provincial militia composed of rival groups, officials said Thursday.

Premadasa told a government parliamentary group meeting Wednesday that security forces and powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas had fought the rival Tamil National Army (TNA) in the northeast in 1989. He said when Indian troops began

withdrawing from the island from October 1989, the TNA went on the rampage attacking Muslims in the east.

"At that time the LTTE along with service personnel attacked them. Our service personnel and LTTE cadres were fighting the TNA to protect the people in the east," a statement released here Thursday quoted Premadasa as saying.

Colombo has accused New Delhi of arming and training the TNA to police the Tamil-dominated northeast after Indian troops sent under a July 1987 bilateral accord had completed their withdrawal by March 1990. The government has in the past repeatedly denied that troops were fighting alongside the LTTE against the TNA whose members fled to neighbouring India after the departure of Indian forces.

Fourteen months of peace talks between the LTTE and Colombo collapsed in June last year leading to renewed fighting between the two sides.

Dissident lawmakers leading an anti-Premadasa campaign have accused him of providing arms and ammunition to the LTTE to fight Indian troops and that the very same weapons were possibly now being used against Sri Lankan troops.

Premadasa told his MPs [members of parliament] Wednesday that the rebel MPs were "trying to propagate the canard that we gave arms to (the) LTTE to kill our own people."

Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe told reporters that the government could not respond to the charge of arming the LTTE until the dissidents proved the allegations.

Premadasa faces impeachment on a wide range of charges including treason, bribery and corruption. The rebel legislators have vowed to make Premadasa's alleged arming of the LTTE a main issue in their campaign to oust him.

Ministers' Resignations Due to LTTE Arms Deal

BK2009055591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0545 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 20 (AFP)—Two dissident MPs quit the crisis-ridden government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa over allegations that he had armed Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka's northeast, press reports said Friday.

Junior Ministers Ravindra Samaraweera and Ariyaratne Jayatilleke told Premadasa that their decision on Wednesday to resign from the government was made in accordance with the wishes of their constituents, THE ISLAND newspaper said.

They said their constituents were angered by allegations that Premadasa had provided weapons to Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas during 14 months of peace talks with the rebels which ended in June 1990.

The failure of the talks led to renewed fighting between the two sides and dissident MPs leading an anti-Premadasa campaign have charged that the very weapons he gave to the Tigers were subsequently used against government troops.

The newspaper quoted Jayatilleke as saying in his resignation letter that he was at a loss to answer his constituents over the allegation that the president had provided arms, vehicles and money to the LTTE.

The resignations of Jayatilleke and Samaraweera brought to 10 the number of ruling party MPs who have openly come out in support of the constitutional campaign to remove Premadasa.

"They (the constituents) express their bitter anger over the fact that the government has provided arms, financial assistance, vehicles and cement to the LTTE without consulting the cabinet," THE ISLAND quoted Samaraweera as saying.

"Constituents charged that it was with those weapons that the LTTE was massacring our soldiers and policemen," Samaraweera told Premadasa.

Colombo has neither denied nor confirmed the allegations but for the first time Wednesday Premadasa admitted that troops fought alongside the Tigers against a provincial militia composed of rival groups in the northeast in 1989.

Premadasa told a government parliamentary group meeting that security forces and the LTTE had fought together against the rival Tamil National Army (TNA) because the TNA was killing Muslims in the east.

Premadasa, who faces impeachment on a wide range of charges ranging from treason to abuse of power, said that when Indian troops began withdrawing from the island in October 1989, the TNA started attacking Muslims in the east.

"At that time the LTTE, along with service personnel, attacked them. Our service personnel and LTTE cadres were fighting the TNA to protect the people in the east," an official statement quoted Premadasa as saying.

Colombo has accused New Delhi of arming and training the TNA who police the Tamil-dominated northeast after the withdrawal of Indian troops sent to Sri Lanka under a July 1987 bilateral accord.

The government has in the past repeatedly denied that troops had teamed up with the LTTE to fight the TNA whose members fled to neighbouring India after the Indian pullout.

Premadasa told his MPs Wednesday that the rebel MPs were "trying to propagate the canard that we gave arms to (the) LTTE to kill our own people."

The rebel legislators have made Premadasa's alleged arming of the LTTE a main issue in their campaign to drum up public support for his ouster.

LTTE 'Militants' Kill 11 Civilians

BK1909103691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 11 civilians, including two women, were killed today at (Paliakonda) in the Eastern Province by suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants. A defense spokesman told newspersons in Colombo that a police post was set up immediately at the place of the incident. He said one militant was later killed in the area.

Elsewhere in the north, fierce fighting is continuing between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.